THE

Board of Trade Journal.

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In a notice on p. 624 will be found a statement of the objects and work of the **Commercial Intelligence Branch** of the Board of Trade.

The Branch has been moved from 50, Parliament Street to 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.

The Temporary Enquiry Office, hitherto at 49, Eastcheap, E.C., has also been moved to 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.

INFORMATION ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY.

Information on the subjects named in the notice on the cover will be found in the following Board of Trade publications, obtainable in London upon application to Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C., and 32, Abingdon Street, S.W., and their Sub-Agents, Messrs. G. Street & Co., Ltd., 30, Cornhill, E.C.; in Edinburgh to Messrs. Oliver & Boyd; and in Dublin to Edward Ponsonby, 116, Grafton Street, at the prices named, viz.:—

1 "Board of Trade Journal," 3rd September, 1903, pp. 448-61, 5th May, 1904, p. 216, at 1d.

2	Statistical Abstract for the United Kingdom, 50th number (Cd. 1,727), at 1*s.* 3*d.*	pp. 28/29
3		p. 12
4		pp. 162/177
5		pp. 55/155.

5	Monthly Accounts relating to Trade and Navigation (25 IV.) at 1*s.*	
	Annual Statement of Trade, 1903. Vol. I. (Cd. 2,043) at 7*s.* 1*d.* ...	pp. 166 *et seq.*
	Annual Statement of Trade, 1903. Vol. II. (Cd. 2,081) at 5*s.*	pp. 177/453
6	Annual Abstract of Labour Statistics, 9th No. (Cd. 1,755) at 1*s.* ...	pp. 176/182
7		pp. 34/72

8 Colonial Import Duties Return (Cd. 1,811) 2*s.*

9 Canada (Preferential Tariff for goods from the United Kingdom), No. 310, at ½*d.*

10 Statistical Abstract for the Colonial and other Possessions of the United Kingdom, 40th No. (Cd. 1,729) 1*s.* 9*d.* pp. 38/227

10 { Trade (Colonies & the United Kingdom), No. 262, 2*d.*
Trade (Colonies and Foreign Countries) No. 110, 2*d.*

11 Foreign Import Duties Return (Cd. 1,735) at 1*s.* 11*d.*

12 Statistical Abstract for the principal and other foreign countries, 29th number (Cd. 1,796) at 1*s.* 6*d.* ... pp. 44/217

13 Abstract of Foreign Labour Statistics (Cd. 720) at 1*s.* 4½*d.* ... ... pp. 1/161

14 Trade between the United Kingdom and Germany (131) at 1½*d.*

15 Memorandum on the comparative Statistics of Population, Industry, and Commerce in the United Kingdom and some leading foreign countries (Cd. 1,199) at 5½*d.*

16 British and Foreign trade and industry. Memoranda, statistical tables and charts (Cd. 1,761) at 3*s.* 6*d.*

17 Naval Expenditure and Mercantile Marine (Great Britain, &c.) (284) at 1*d.*

OPENINGS FOR BRITISH TRADE.

BRITISH INDIA.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS: INDIA OFFICE.

The Secretary of State for India in Council is prepared to receive tenders from such persons as may be willing to supply—

Railway Material. Switches and crossings for 75 lb. rails and slips for ditto.

The conditions of contract may be obtained on application to the Director-General of Stores, India Office, Whitehall, S.W., and tenders are to be delivered at that office by 2 o'clock p.m. on Tuesday, the 5th July, 1904, after which time no tender will be received.

Openings for British Trade.

BRITISH INDIA—*continued.*

Goods Waggons.

The South Indian Railway Company, Limited, are prepared to receive tenders for the supply of rolling stock, comprising—

20 steel-covered goods waggons.

Specifications and forms of tender may be obtained at the Company's Offices, 55, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.

Tenders addressed to the Chairman and Directors of the South Indian Railway Company, Limited, marked "Tender for Rolling Stock," must be left with the Managing Director, not later than 12 noon of Tuesday, the 12th July, 1904.

The Company are not bound to accept the lowest or any tender.

A charge (which will not be returnable) will be made of 10*s.* for each copy of the specification.

Copies of the drawings may be obtained at the office of Sir George B. Bruce, 3, Victoria Street, Westminster, on payment of 5*s.* per sheet.

Railway Construction.

On p. 595 will be found an extract from an official memorandum on railway development and working in India (including Burmah), from which it appears that 608 miles of new line will be opened for public traffic in 1904-05, leaving under construction 2,436 miles for completion in 1905-06 or later.

Canalisation Works.

The following particulars are taken from the "Pioneer Mail" (Allahabad) of the 10th June:—

"The Bengal Chamber of Commerce, replying to the Bengal Government, approve generally of the scheme drawn up by the Collector of 24-Pargannahs for the canalisation of Tolly's Nullah, which would complete a grand trunk waterway connecting Calcutta with Eastern Bengal and Assam. It is calculated that if Tolly's Nullah and the other boat route and Madaripur Bhil become perennially navigable, the waterways distance between Calcutta and the upper and north-west delta stations would be reduced by 250 miles, and between Calcutta and the north-east delta stations by 160 miles. Among other advantages of the scheme are:—A smooth water channel the whole way, the dead weight capacity of vessels will be increased from 25 to 50 per cent., and insurance risks will be much less, as the route would be free of the dangers to navigation which the present route presents. The scheme involves an expenditure of Rs. 33,20,000."

Openings for British Trade.

CANADA.

Enquiries relating to Canadian Trade.

The following trade enquiries have been received at the **Canadian Section of the Imperial Institute,** from the Curator of which Section further information regarding them may be obtained:—

Home Enquiries.—A buying and commission firm in Glasgow wish to hear from Canadian packers of codfish steaks in tins.

A London firm possessing a connection in all kinds of canned goods would be pleased to hear from Canadian packers seeking an export outlet.

Enquiry has been made for the addresses of Canadian shippers of evaporated apples and chopped apple waste, cores and skins.

Canadian Enquiries.—A Canadian manufacturer of butchers' wooden skewers and also of dowels asks to be placed in communication with United Kingdom importers.

A Canadian shipper of hides invites correspondence from United Kingdom buyers.

Note.—For further information regarding any of the above, application should be made to the Curator of the Canadian Section of the Imperial Institute, S.W.

CAPE COLONY.

Steam Coal.

The Board of Trade have received from their Correspondent at Cape Town particulars of the contract for the supply of steam coal to the Cape Government Railways during the year 1905. Tenders will only be considered for the description of Welsh steam coal as approved and accepted by the Admiralty, and for approved Natal, Australian, and New Zealand steam coal. The quantity of coal required is 9,250 tons monthly for the Western system, 2,666 tons monthly for the Midland system, and 1,000 tons monthly for the Eastern system, delivered during one year, and persons are at liberty to quote for the whole or any portion of these monthly quantities during the period 1st January, 1905, to 31st December, 1905.

Tenders in sealed covers and marked outside "Tenders for Coal," must be received by the Controller and Auditor-General, Cape Town, by noon on Monday, 8th August, 1904.

A copy of the conditions of contract may be seen on application at the offices of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.), or may be obtained at the office of the Agent-General for the Cape of Good Hope, 100, Victoria Street, S.W.

Openings for British Trade.

CAPE COLONY—*continued.*

Electric Lighting of Port Elizabeth.

A communication has been received from the Correspondent at Port Elizabeth of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, from which it appears that of the recently floated loan raised by the Municipality of Port Elizabeth, the sum of 100,000*l.* is to be used for the installation of electric lighting. The agents of the Municipality in London are Messrs. Davis & Soper, 54, St. Mary Axe, E.C., from whom all particulars may be obtained.

EGYPT.

Re-modelling of Lock Gates.

With reference to the notice on p. 532 of last week's "Board of Trade Journal," the Egyptian "Journal Officiel" of the 20th June, states that tenders for the re-modelling of the Mahmoudia lock gates will be received up to 11 a.m. on the 5th August, not on the 18th July, as stated in the "Journal Officiel" of the 11th June.

RUSSIA.

Ink.

From a report by the Swedish Commercial Agent at Moscow, there appears to be a good opening for ink in Russia. He states that all the writing and copying ink used in that country is of foreign origin. The chief countries which export ink to Russia are Germany, France, and Sweden.

Canal Construction.

The "Moniteur des Intérêts Matériels" (Brussels) states that a scheme has been projected to construct a canal from the Neva to Lake Onega and to the White Sea.

The "Moniteur" adds that tenders will shortly be invited for the carrying out of this work.

NETHERLANDS.

Changing of Sluice Gates at Ymuiden.

A despatch has been received at the Board of Trade from the Acting British Consul at Amsterdam, reporting that on the 7th July the Provincial Council of North Holland will be prepared to receive tenders for the changing of the sluice gates at Ymuiden of the North Sea Canal. The estimated cost of the work is fl. 166,000 (about 13,833*l.*).

Particulars may be obtained from Messrs. Cleef Brothers, at the Hague, on payment of a small sum.

Openings for British Trade.

SWITZERLAND.

Electric Light and Power Plant.

The United States Consul-General at Frankfort reports that the towns of Zweisimmen (Canton of Berne) and Murg (Canton of St. Gall), in Switzerland, intend to erect plants for electric lighting and supplying power.

SPAIN.

Electric Tramway Material.

The "Gaceta de Madrid" of 21st June contains a notice stating that an application has been received from the Zaragoza Tramway Company (la "Sociedad Tranvías de Zaragoza") for a concession for an electric tramway in Zaragoza prolonging the existing line; the notice is published with a view to eliciting any applications for the same concession on more advantageous terms than those stated in the one already made.

Telephone Material.

The "Gaceta de Madrid" of 22nd June contains notices calling for tenders for the construction and working of telephone systems in Lérida and in El Llano del Beal, in the province of Murcia. In each case tenders are to be presented either to the Dirección-General of Telegraphs, 10, Calle de Carretas, Madrid, or at certain local offices within 30 days of the publication of the notice in the "Gaceta." In each case the concessionaire will have to pay to the State 10 per cent. of all receipts; the maximum period of the concession will be for 20 years, and the adjudication will turn on the reduction of this period. A provisional deposit of 2,000 pesetas (or about 57*l.*) is required in the case of the Lérida telephone service, and of 500 pesetas (or about 15*l.*) in the case of the El Llano del Beal telephone service.

Aluminium, &c.

The "Gaceta de Madrid" of 23rd June publishes a Royal Decree authorising the Trubia factory to obtain by direct purchase 1,000 kilos. of aluminium, 6,000 kilos. of cotton waste (cabos de algodón), 10,000 metric quintals of coke, and 80 metric quintals of pig lead.

Electric Lighting Material.

The same issue of the "Gaceta" contains a notice inviting tenders for the electric lighting of Bélmez, Pueblo Nuevo del Terrible and Peñarroya for a period of seven years. Tenders will be received by the Ayuntamiento of Bélmez on 30th July next. A provisional deposit of 582½ pesetas (or about 16*l.*) will be required from persons tendering. The adjudication will turn upon the amount to be charged by the contractor for each candle power per month. It appears that the personal attendance of tenderers or persons duly authorised by them is required at the adjudication.

Openings for British Trade.

SPAIN—*continued.*

Telephone Service.

The "Gaceta de Madrid," for 26th June, publishes a Royal Decree calling for tenders for the installation and working of a telephone system and central station at Berga and sub-stations at Gironalla, Puigreig, Balsareny, Sallent, Castelladral y Cardona. Tenders will be received within thirty days' date of publication at the office of the Dirección-General of Posts and Telegraphs, 10, Calle de Carretas, and at the Office of the Civil Governor, Barcelona, a provisional deposit of 2,000 pesetas (or about 57*l.*) being required from persons tendering. The maximum period for the concession is for 20 years, and the adjudication of tenders will turn on the reduction of this period.

The "Gacetas" containing the above may be seen on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

ITALY.

Harbour Improvements at Spezia.

The Board of Trade have received, from H.M. Consul-General at Genoa, copy of a dispatch from the British Vice-Consul at Spezia, containing particulars of a call for tenders for harbour improvements at Spezia.

The work includes (*a*) the dredging of a channel leading to the commercial harbour and preparation of the foundations for the extension of the quays, at the estimated cost of 240,000 lire (about 9,600*l.*); (*b*) the prolongation of the existing pier, quays and breakwater, at the estimated cost of 738,470 lire (about 29,538*l.*).

Tenders will be received up to 10 a.m. on the 20th July, at the Ministry of Public Works, Rome. Specifications may be seen at the above Ministry and at the Royal Prefecture of Genoa. The final date for the presentation of betterments on the provisional adjudications expires on 4th August.

It may be noted that the total sum sanctioned for expenditure on harbour improvements at Spezia is 1,450,000 lire, consequently a balance of 471,530 lire still remains available, and will be eventually devoted to furnishing the necessary appliances and accessories, such as cranes, goods sheds, lighting, &c., &c., which will all doubtless be the subject of further contracts in due course.

Pitch Pine.

A despatch has been received at the Board of Trade from H.M. Consul-General at Genoa, forwarding translation of a notice calling for tenders for the supply of pitch pine to the Italian Navy, of an estimated value of 87,928 lire (about 3,517*l.*).

Openings for British Trade.

Tenders will be received up to the 19th July, at the Royal Arsenals at Spezia, Naples, Venice, and Taranto; they must be made out on Government stamped paper of one lira. A deposit of 8,800 lire (about 352*l.*) is required to qualify any tender.

The special conditions of the contract may be seen at the Ministry of Marine, Rome, at the Directorates-General of the Royal Arsenals, at the Technical Offices of the Navy, Genoa, and at the principal Italian Chambers of Commerce.

BULGARIA.

Life and Fire Insurance.

On p. 613 will be found an extract from a French Consular Report, giving particulars of possible openings for life and fire insurance agencies in Bulgaria.

Goods Waggons.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Bulgarian Diplomatic Agency in London, a notice issued by the Bulgarian Government, calling for tenders for the supply of 150 goods waggons to the State Railways. Tenders, addressed to the Ministry of Finance, Sofia, will be received up to the 12th/25th July. The estimated value of the contract is 650,000 francs (26,000*l.*); a deposit of 5 per cent. is required to qualify any tender.

A copy of the specifications (in German) and plans may be seen by persons interested, on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

ROUMANIA.

Water Supply Works.

The "Moniteur des Intérêts Matériels" (Brussels) announces that tenders are invited for the construction of a system for the supply of drinking water to the town of Craïova.

The adjudication will take place on the 9th/22nd August at the "Mairie," Craïova, whence specifications (in French) may be obtained on payment of 8*s.* 4*d.*

The "Moniteur," containing details of the materials required for the construction of the system, may be seen on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Indian Tea in San Francisco.

A report by H.M. Consul-General at San Francisco, recently issued by the Foreign Office, contains the following table showing the amount of tea imported into San Francisco during 1903 by sea:—

Openings for British Trade.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA—*continued.*

From	Quantity.	Value.
	Lbs.	£
China	2,956,468	81,365
Japan	5,968,809	221,269
British East Indies	437,275	15,418
Elsewhere	233,408	7,656
Total	9,595,960	325,708

"It will be noted," adds H.M. Consul-General, "that Indian tea makes a very poor show. It should undoubtedly be very much more used, as it is rapidly growing in favour in the States. The trade requires pushing, and it would be well to have local agents who would work it up. At present Americans will not buy tea unless it is sold at a high price, fearing that a cheap article is a bad one. Indian tea which is put here at under 2*s*. per lb., is consequently sold at 1 dol. People will not buy it at, or touch it at, its proper price. Once this prejudice is overcome, Indian tea ought to sell in large quantities." (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 3,185.)

Linoleum in Los Angeles.

In his report on the trade of Los Angeles in 1903, recently issued by the Foreign Office, the British Vice-Consul remarks that there is a good market for British linoleum in that town. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 3,185.)

ARGENTINA.

Steam Launches.

The "Boletin Oficial" of 23rd May contains copy of a Presidential Decree authorising the Argentina "Prefectura General de Puertos y Resguardos" to acquire three steam launches at a cost not exceeding 17,500 dols. currency (about 1,600*l*.), for coastguard purposes in the Upper Uruguay River.

The "Boletin" may be seen on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

EXHIBITION.

RUSSIA.

Indefinite Postponement of Agricultural Exhibition at Kief.

With reference to the notice on p. 396 of the "Board of Trade Journal of 2nd June, relating to an Agricultural Exhibition at Kief, a despatch has been received at the Foreign Office from H.M. Consul-General at Odessa, in which he states that the exhibition is indefinitely postponed on account of the war with Japan.

BRITISH TRADE ABROAD.

Bayonne.—The British Vice-Consul at Bayonne, in a recent report to the Foreign Office, remarks as follows:—

"After having carefully studied the present situation, and consulted the leading merchants of this district, I have come to the conclusion that in many cases, excluding the category of goods which are exported from the United Kingdom in very large quantities, the prospects offered to British manufacturers are not sufficiently attractive to induce them to send out their own travellers. Under these circumstances I have found out that the conditions offered to their agents abroad are far from being adequate enough to encourage French firms to push British goods in such an efficient and expeditious manner that a satisfactory result could be obtained. Therefore the essential points to attain this end seem to be (1) to find an active and reliable agent, (2) to entrust him with a good collection of samples or patterns, (3) to grant him, besides his commission, a fixed yearly allowance which would partly defray travelling and advertising expenses. By this means British firms would be enabled to keep much more in touch with their agents, they would also be entitled to insist on a monthly return of sales; on the other hand, the agents would find an encouragement which would induce them to direct their best efforts to do a sufficient amount of business in order to secure the continuance of their allowance." (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 3,184.)

Oporto.—A report by H.M. Consul at Oporto, recently issued by the Foreign Office (Annual Series, 3,183) contains the following remarks:—

"At the risk of wearisome reiteration I would again beg leave to point out the almost entire uselessness of relying upon circulars and price lists sent by post as the only means of obtaining custom. Requests are frequently made to this office for the names of the importers of various classes of goods in order that they may be circularised, and at times cards and leaflets are sent to the Consulate to be consulted by intending purchasers. With all desire to be of assistance to merchants at home, I can safely affirm that during the last quarter of a century no one has called at the Consulate for such a purpose. Here is an illustration of the futility of wasting time and money on these cards. Some time ago a card was sent here with a short description of a certain class of goods connected with the druggist trade, followed by the words 'we would esteem it a favour if you would put our name on your list of reference.' Now, there are about 30 wholesale importing druggists in this town; they are constantly (perhaps in their own opinion too constantly) being visited by agents and travellers, so much so, that one of them has an elaborate notice in his shop stating an hour at which agents and another at which travellers are received. In view of these persistent solicitations for orders by persons primed with every particular of the goods they have to

offer for sale, is it likely that this importer is going to leave his place of business and come to the various Consulates to ask if he can be told of such a thing as, say, a firm willing to sell paints? Except in the case of firms who already have a well-established connection, almost the only manner in which business can be obtained is by means of an agent or traveller, or, preferably, both. Perhaps the only exception to this is in the matter of coal, where profits are now cut so fine as in some cases not to allow of an agent's commission, and most of the business is now done direct between the colliery fitters and importers."

. . . . . .

"In prints and dyed goods some novelties both in design and in the cloth have been brought out by Manchester printers who have been doing a regular trade. The advantage of lightness may again be mentioned for the benefit of those trying for this market, as the duties are levied by weight, and it is as well to bear this in mind in preparing samples. It may also be worth while again impressing on manufacturers bidding for this market the necessity of never using silk, wool or linen in cotton fabrics, otherwise they become liable to an exceedingly high duty. It would also be an advantage to quote the price per metre, as merchants now seem desirous of abandoning the yard measurement; the weight also, should be stated in kilograms, so that the merchant can at once calculate the duty."

San Francisco.—In his report on the trade of 1903, recently issued by the Foreign Office, H.M. Consul-General at San Francisco remarks:—

"I have from time to time pointed out that the only way in which British trade can be extended here is by sending travelling agents to canvass for trade. The principal grocery house here informs me that more French and German travelling salesmen call on them than British salesmen. The French sell wine and fancy groceries; the German, Christmas goods; and the British, biscuits, jams and fancy groceries. This firm think that a resident agent representing a number of British houses would do well here. Circulars and price lists are almost useless." (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 3,185.)

TRADE OF NATAL.

With reference to the statement published on pp. 495–6 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 16th June, the following particulars of the trade of Natal during the year 1903, with comparative figures for preceding years, are taken from the Natal Government Gazette of 17th May, 1904:—

Trade of Natal.

Imports.

The subjoined comparative figures will show the fluctuations in the values of imports from the United Kingdom, the Colonies, and foreign countries during the past three years:—

——	1901.	1902.	1903.
	£	£	£
United Kingdom	6,523,129	8,253,684	8,560,177
Australian Colonies	872,123	1,459,995	825,516
New Zealand	48,685	89,534	287,813
Canada	287	16,686	208,111
All other Colonies	557,675	661,267	726,330
Foreign countries	1,553,851	2,836,279	4,457,507*
Total ... ... £	9,555,750	13,317,445	15,065,454

* The importations from foreign countries show a large increase. This increase is, perhaps, more apparent than real, as it is only since preferential treatment was granted to the United Kingdom goods that the Customs have been able to make an accurate classification.

The great drop in the imports from the Australian Colonies will be observed, but New Zealand has gone forward, and Canada's rise in the list is phenomenal.

As regards the imports from Germany, the value has risen from 515,497*l.* in 1902 to 746,884*l.* in 1903; those from the United States of America have risen from 1,173,419*l.* in 1902 to 1,674,261*l.* in 1903.

The Argentine imports increased from 527,074*l.* to 999,801*l.* These three countries account for more than two-thirds of the increase from foreign countries.

As regards Canadian goods it has been agreed that the reciprocal preferential treatment will be applicable from 1st July, 1904.

In connection with the increased value of imports in 1903, it should be observed that the value of mealies and mealie meal increased from 56,370*l.* in 1902 to 527,907*l.* in 1903. There was also a corresponding increase in oats. The very excellent harvests of this year will greatly reduce the importation; the result will be detrimental to Customs revenue, but of great advantage to the producer.

The quantity of butter imported during the calendar year 1903 was 6,629,373 pounds. The revenue derived from butter consumed in Natal amounted to about 20,000*l.*

Exports.

The trade of Natal with Cape Colony declined from 465,734*l.* in 1902 to 364,043*l.* in 1903, with the Orange River Colony increased from 309,417*l.* (non-Colonial produce, 254,503*l.*) in 1902 to 619,313*l.* (non-Colonial produce, 513,510*l.*) in 1903, and with the Transvaal (apart from military stores), increased from 5,360,000*l.* (non-Colonial produce, 4,932,560*l.*) in 1902 to 7,239,423*l.* (non-Colonial produce, 6,791,451*l.*) in 1903.

In oversea traffic, Colonial goods fell in value from 984,504*l.* to 947,361*l.*

TRADE OF THE TRANSVAAL.

The following table, showing the value of the principal and other articles imported into the Transvaal during the three months ended 31st March, 1904, as compared with the corresponding period of 1903, has been compiled from official figures published in the "Transvaal Government Gazette" of 27th May :—

Imports.

Articles.	Three Months ended 31st Mar., 1903.	Three Months ended 31st Mar., 1904.
	£	£
Metals and manufactures of (*includes agricultural implements, bicycles, hardware, iron and steel manufactures, machinery, wire rope, &c.*)	1,226,000	739,000
Provisions, exclusive of corn and dairy products (*includes coffee, chicory, biscuits, meats, fresh and preserved, fish, fresh and preserved, jams, sugar, tea, vegetables, fruits, condiments, salt, &c.*) ...	813,000	570,000
Apparel, haberdashery, &c. (*includes hats*)	852,000	410,000
Corn and grain (*includes flour, meal and rice*) ...	418,000	278,000
Wood and manufactures (*includes furniture*)	540,000	233,000
Dairy products (*includes butter and butterine, eggs, cheese, preserved milk, &c.*)	253,000	150,000
Leather and manufactures (*includes saddlery and boots and shoes*)	269,000	128,000
Beverages (*includes ale, spirits, wine and mineral waters*)	188,000	104,000
Drugs and chemicals	159,000	104,000
Live animals	256,000	97,000
Groceries and oilmen's stores (*includes oils and paints*)	139,000	78,000
Stationery and paper (*includes books*)	109,000	71,000
Soap and candles	88,000	56,000
Vehicles (other than bicycles)	96,000	53,000
Cotton manufactures	110,000	52,000
Arms and ammunition	19,000	47,000
Tobacco, raw and manufactured (*includes cigars and cigarettes*)	61,000	46,000
Jewellery and plated ware (*includes clocks and watches*)	52,000	39,000
Woollen manufactures	78,000	30,000
Tramway material...	25,000	25,000
Electric cable wire and fittings	15,000	19,000
Cocoa, chocolate, and confectionery	34,000	14,000
Toys and sporting goods	18,000	8,000
Carpets	39,000	5,000
Tobacconist ware	11,000	5,000
Other articles of merchandise	320,000	166,000
Total... ... ... £	6,188,000	3,527,000

Of the total value of merchandise imported into the Transvaal during the first three months of 1904, 1,312,000*l.* worth were sent *viâ* Cape Colony, 1,571,000*l.* worth *viâ* Natal, and 644,000*l.* worth *viâ* Delagoa Bay.

NOTE.—The above figures do not include free importations for Local Government or Military Stores, or Railway Material imported as "Government Stores."

Trade of the Transvaal.

The value of the principal articles exported from the Transvaal during the same two periods, according to figures published in the "Gazette" of the 13th May, was as follows:—

Articles.	Quarter ended 31st March, 1903.	Quarter ended 31st March, 1904.
	£	£
Gold	2,605,000	3,766,000
Diamonds	—	137,000
Coal	33,000	34,000
Animals, living	2,000	29,000
Wool	19,000	26,000
Tobacco of all kinds	3,000	14,000
Machinery	3,000	14,000
Corn and grain	4,000	8,000
Other articles	17,000	58,000
Total ... ... £	2,686,000	4,086,000

SILVER LEAD AND LEAD ORE IN SPAIN.

The following particulars of the production of silver lead and lead ores in Spain are taken from a report by Mr. H. W. B. Harrison, Commercial Attaché to H.M. Embassy at Madrid:—

Silver lead is at present produced in Spain in the provinces of Almeria, Carceres, Ciudad Real, Cordoba, Murcia, and Seville.

In the Province of Almeria, on the Mediterranean coast of Andalucia, there are 62 mines employing 874 workmen, with a production in the year 1902 of 42,985 tons, valued at 508,083 pesetas (15,240*l.*). The railway at present constructed connects the port of Almeria with Guadix, Baeza, Cordoba, &c., and the port of Aguilas with Empalme and Baza. A line from Baza to Moreda is under construction, which will connect Aguilas with the main line from Almeria to Cordoba.

In Ciudad Real there are five silver lead mines at work, employing 2,729 workmen, with a production in 1902 of 33,349 tons valued at 5,877,475 pesetas (176,322*l.*). Ciudad Real is in the centre of Spain, connected by railway with Madrid, Merida and Manzanares for Almeria, Alicante, Cartegena, &c.

In the Province of Cordoba there are 13 silver lead mines at work, employing 1,799 workmen, with a production in 1902 of 12,767 tons valued at 2,404,553 pesetas (72,135*l.*). Cordoba is a central province, but is connected by railway with Seville and Huelva, with Utrera and Cadiz, with Bobadilla for Algeciras or

Silver Lead and Lead Ore in Spain.

Malaga, with Baeza for Almeria or Madrid, and with Almerchon for Merida or Madrid.

In the Province of Murcia there are 141 silver lead mines at work, which produced in 1902, 135,306 tons valued at 20,295,240 pesetas (607,856*l.*). The railway system in Murcia consists of full gauge railways from the port of Aguilas to Empalmo, Baza and Lorca, from Lorca to Alcantarilla, from the port of Cartagena to Alquerias for Alicante and Madrid; and narrow gauge railways from Playa to Menas, Puerto to Mazarron, and from Cartagena to San Gines.

The output of the mines in the Provinces of Carceres and Seville is very limited.

Lead ore is produced in Spain, chiefly in the Provinces of Almeria, Badajoz, Ciudad Real, Jaen, and Tarragona.

In the Province of Almeria there are 27 mines at work, employing 315 workmen. The output in 1902 was 33,661 tons, valued at 381,377 pesetas (11,439*l.*).

In the Province of Badajoz there are 30 mines working which employ 1,389 workmen. The output in 1902 was 9,358 tons, valued at 1,450,505 pesetas (43,515*l.*). Badajoz is on the Portuguese frontier, and the main railway line to Portugal passes through the Province to Merida which is on the line to Zafra, Huelva, &c.

In the Province of Ciudad Real there are six lead mines, the output from which in 1902 was 2,661 tons, valued at 380,030 pesetas (11,400*l.*). The railway connects Ciudad Real with Madrid, with Merida for Huelva, and with Manzanares for Almeria, Alicante, and Cartagena.

In the Province of Jaen there are 249 active lead mines, employing 5,387 workmen. The output in 1902 was 50,655 tons, valued at 10,147,188 pesetas (304,413*l.*). The Province of Jaen is intersected by various railways; Baeza to Almeria, Baeza to Cordoba, Linares to Jaen and Puente Genil, Linares to Los Salidos, Linares to Vadollano.

In the Province of Tarragona there were three active lead mines covering 20 hectares, and employing 170 workmen. The output in 1902 was 1,935 tons, valued at 173,571 pesetas (5,205*l.*). The Province of Tarragona is intersected with railway lines from Barcelona, Lerida, Reus, and Selou, &c.

A few mines are worked in other provinces, but the output of these is small.

AGRICULTURAL POSSIBILITIES IN ABYSSINIA.

In the report of the United States Commissioner on his mission to Abyssinia, it is stated that among the crops more or less generally cultivated are a number to which greater attention might be given to the decided advantage of the country, viz., arachides, cotton, castor bean, all the cereals, fruits, grapes, and certain textile plants.

Cotton.—With regard to cotton, the Commissioner reports that in addition to the cultivation of the variety of cotton known locally as "naine," which has been carried on by the native population with very great success and to a considerable extent for many years, it has been recognised that certain portions of Abyssinia are susceptible of producing a first-class saleable cotton under the most favourable conditions. Two plantations, one at Baka, in the Province of Assabat, and the other at Orso, have given unexpectedly brilliant results. The last-named plantation, not yet completely organised, gives every promise of yielding large profits. These examples have been so striking that Europeans have asked for concessions, with the expectation of growing cotton, which will probably become one of the principal agricultural resources of the Empire.

Coffee.—The report gives the following particulars concerning Abyssinian coffee:—

Two recognised qualities of Abyssinian coffee are cultivated and exported, one known as Abyssinian and the other as Harrar-Mocha. The last named is of first-class quality, being cultivated with care, and brings 3*d.* more per kilogram (2·2 pounds) than the first, in the country of production. The area devoted to the cultivation of this coffee is increasing constantly, and the product in form and flavour is that of the Mocha of Arabia; indeed, the greater part of the crop is sorted and either mixed or sold in its natural state to the ultimate consumer as Mocha. There is, of course, no reason why Abyssinian coffee should not stand upon its own merits and even obtain recognition as the best in the world, as the country is the original habitat of the plant, which in the valley of Kaffa still grows in a wild state.

The differences in the quality of the Abyssinian coffees result from two causes: the method of cultivation and the method of packing. In the provinces which produce the lower grades, the production is immense, but the crop is gathered with very little care, the berries being frequently gathered from the earth and losing by this contact a portion of their flavour. Having been gathered, the berries are packed in green hides, and thus packed, are exposed to the weather during a journey by caravan of from forty-five days to two months, thus constantly depreciating in value. In spite of these primitive methods, the exportation at the present time amounts to 2,000 mule loads per annum, or 440,925 lbs., much of which is shipped by way of Harrar and the

Agricultural Possibilities in Abyssinia.

rest by Massowah and the Sudan. The value of the exports of Abyssinian coffee amounts annually to 27,000*l.*

The Harrar-Mocha of first quality, all of which is cultivated within easy distance of the city of Harrar, is almost entirely exported to Aden, where, as explained before, it is mixed with Arabian Mocha and forwarded under this name to Europe and to the United States. Upon the completion of the railway to Addis-Ababa the exports of coffee will certainly increase enormously. At the present time, the coffees of the Province of Kaffa are so burdened with charges for transportation that practically nothing remains for the growers.

Gums.—As regards gums, the Commissioner writes that the Abyssinian gums in general are white and highly esteemed. They are abundant and receive but little commercial attention. The best regions are those of from 4,900 to 5,900 feet altitude, although in the lower plains there is quite sufficient to invite exploitation. All these gums are exported by way of Aden, and are probably never recognised at the ports of arrival as of Abyssinian origin. The export at present amounts to about 1,930*l.* annually. This export could be easily augmented to five times the present amount.

PROPOSED TARIFF CHANGES.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

Proposed Modification of Import Duty on Yerba Maté.

The Argentine "Boletin Oficial" for the 20th May contains the text of a Bill which has been submitted to the Argentine Legislature, proposing the alteration of the import duty on yerba maté to a uniform rate of 3 cts. per kilog. The duty is at present 4 cts. per kilog. for prepared and 1½ cts. per kilog. for unprepared yerba.

TARIFF CHANGES AND CUSTOMS REGULATIONS.

BELGIUM—GREECE.

Commercial Relations between the above Countries.

With reference to the notice which appeared at p. 71 of the "Board of Trade Journal" for the 8th October, 1903, it is to be noted that, according to the Italian "Bolletino di Legislazione e Statistica Doganale e Commerciale" for March, the arrangement under which the Greek Conventional Tariff is applied to imports from Belgium, on condition of reciprocity, has now been continued for another year, *i.e.*, to the 7th/20th March, 1905.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

SPAIN.

Regulations respecting the Duty-free Importation of Books.

With reference to the notice which appeared at p. 23 of the "Journal" for the 7th April last, on the subject of a Spanish Law exempting books from the payment of Customs duty under certain conditions, the Board of Trade have now received, through the Foreign Office, a translation of a Royal Order containing regulations for the application of the Law in question, which provide that, in the case of books for which duty-free admission is claimed under the Law, a certificate issued by the office for the registration of literary property in the author's native country will be required, stating that they are the original works of a citizen of the country, and that he has secured copyright in them.

The Order also provides that the exemption accorded to books does not extend to the bindings, which will continue to be dutiable according to the materials of which they are composed.

BRAZIL—PERU.

Prohibition of Transit of Arms, &c., to Peru by the Amazon.

The Brazilian "Diario Oficial" for the 29th May contains the text of a Note addressed by the Brazilian Government to the Peruvian Minister at Rio de Janeiro, stating that it had been determined to prohibit the transit by way of the Amazon of arms and other munitions of war intended for Peru.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

Customs Regulations to be Revised.

The Argentine "Boletin Oficial" for the 20th May contains the text of a Presidential Decree, appointing a Commission to revise the Customs Regulations of the Argentine Republic. The following points are mentioned as among those to which it will be the duty of the Commission to pay attention:—Simplification of Customs formalities; encouragement of national coasting trade; facilities for export trade; improvement of transit trade; systematization of Customs fines.

PANAMA.

Customs Regime in Canal Zone.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of a telegram from His Majesty's Ambassador at Washington to the effect that it is reported in the United States press that the President issued an Order on the 24th June by which goods entering the Panama Canal zone from foreign ports are to be subjected to the United States Customs Tariff of 1897. The Order is to take effect forthwith.

The Order further provides that goods from the United States or from the insular possessions thereof are to be admitted into the Canal zone on the same terms as into United States ports.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

JAPAN.

Customs Decisions.

The following is the substance of some recent decisions of the Japanese Minister for Finance, affecting the classification of articles under the Japanese Customs Tariff:—

Mild steel bars are dutiable under No. 217 of the Tariff, at the "Conventional" rate of 0·261 yen per 100 kins (5½*d.* per cwt.).

Checked woollen tweeds, even though the material consist of shoddy, and the cost of production be less than that of ordinary worsted cloth, are dutiable under No. 337 of the Tariff as worsted cloth.

Metal pencil holders are dutiable under No. 298 of the Tariff at the rate of 15 per cent. *ad valorem*, as "stationery," and not under No. 271 as manufactures of metal. [This reverses a previous Decision published at p. 606 of the "Journal" for the 31st March last.]

Glue is dutiable under No. 443 of the Tariff, at the rate of 0·886 yen per 100 kins (1*s.* 6½*d.* per cwt.), when the colour and smell of the article show it to be common glue, even though it is transparent.

SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT.

BRITISH INDIA.

Railway Construction.

The Indian Financial Statement for 1904-5, recently issued as a Parliamentary publication, contains a memorandum by the Honourable Sir A. T. Arundel, K.C.S.I., on railway development and working in India (including Burmah), from which the following particulars have been extracted:—

At the commencement of 1903-04, *i.e.*, on the 1st April, 1903, the total length of railways open for traffic was 26,308 miles, and the mileage under construction or sanctioned for construction on the same date was 2,650 miles. There was thus a grand total of railways completed and in hand on the 1st April, 1903, of 28,958 miles.

During 1903–04, *i.e.*, from 1st April, 1903, to 31st March, 1904, 1,282 miles of new railway have been authorised, and 838 miles have been or were likely to be opened to public traffic. The total length of open line at the commencement of 1904–05, *i.e*, on the 1st April, 1904, was, therefore, 27,146 miles, and the mileage under construction or sanctioned for construction on the 31st March, 1904, was 3,044 miles; making a grand total of railways completed and in hand at the commencement of 1904–05 of 30,190 miles, and showing, after allowing for lines abandoned and corrections of mileage, an advance on the previous year of 1,230 miles.

Of the 3,044 miles under construction, it is expected that 608 miles will be opened for public traffic in 1904-05, leaving 2,436 miles for completion in 1905–06 or later.

Shipping and Transport.

CAPE COLONY.

East London Harbour Regulations.

The "Cape of Good Hope Government Gazette" of 7th June publishes the text of the bye-laws and regulations of the East London Harbour Board as amended to date. These regulations which include *inter alia*, the revised tariff of charges and the scale for the calculation of tonnage, may be consulted by persons interested on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

RUSSIA.

Azov Ports: Hints to British Shipowners as to Charter Party Clause.

In his report to the Foreign Office for the year 1903, H.M. Consular-Agent at Ghenitchesk writes:—

"In my last year's trade report (Annual Series, 3,115) I referred to the serious risk run by shipowners in binding their steamers for the stevedoring to the merchants in the charter party (See "Board of Trade Journal" for 25th February last, p. 371). I then pointed out that the shippers having that privilege were exploiting the owners and the ship masters in every respect. I now again call their special attention to the following facts:—Last year the leading chartering firms amalgamated together, and taking advantage of the same clause in the charter, pressed the stevedores for a certain percentage, otherwise they were determined to start opposition. The stevedores, knowing that they could not fight the binding clause, acceded to their pretensions, but on the other hand they increased their price by about 15 per cent."

The Consular Agent further states that a stevedore who started opposition last year in one port of the Sea of Azov charged 2*l.* for loading and trimming 1,000 quarters; this navigation season the shippers, in order to get rid of him, besides binding the steamers, are compelling the owners to stipulate in the charters, the price to be 3*l.* for the same work.

There are still a few stevedores in some ports of the Sea of Azov who are keeping down their prices as low as possible, and competing with the stevedores of the merchants and ship brokers in the hope that one day this serious obstacle may be removed from the charter-party, but if it be kept on much longer they will probably abandon the business and then the shipowners will have to suffer the detriment which will certainly ensue.

H.M. Consular Agent also understands that steamers are bound by charter for their lightening over Yenikale Bar, besides which the merchants, now the shipping brokers, have made certain arrangements with the Kertch lightening contractors.

Shipping and Transport.

GERMANY.

Proposed Rules for Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Merchant Vessels.

H.M. Consul-General at Hamburg in his recent report to the Foreign Office (*Annual Series*, 3,186) states that, after consultation with representatives of various chemical industries in Germany, the Association of the Maritime Classes has lately drawn up a project of law containing supplementary rules for the carriage of dangerous goods by German merchant vessels, and these rules are now under the consideration of the German Government. Up to the present such rules have only existed for the carriage of explosives and certain other inflammable goods, and for coal, grain and wood.

GERMAN SOUTH WEST AFRICA.

Harbour Regulations at Swakopmund.

A despatch has been received at the Foreign Office, from H.M. Chargé d'Affaires at Berlin, enclosing a translation of new Harbour Regulations that have been issued for the Harbour of Swakopmund, and also of an agreement between the fiscal authorities there and the Woermann Line, of Hamburg, for undertaking the embarkation and disembarkation of passengers and goods.

These documents may be consulted by those interested on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

FRANCE.

Alteration in Assessment of Tonnage of Vessels.

The "Journal Officiel" of the 25th June contains the text of a Law making certain alterations in the assessment of tonnage of vessels for the purpose of calculating navigation dues, which will come into force on the 1st July, 1904.

The "Journal" may be seen by persons interested on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

Steamer Service with Canada.

With reference to the notice on p. 27 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 1st October, 1903, relative to a contract between M. Gustave Colombier and the Canadian Government for the establishment of a line of steamers between France and Canada, a despatch has been received at the Foreign Office, from H.M. Consul-General at Havre, reporting that the Canadian Government have withdrawn the subsidy granted to M. Colombier's line as the terms of the the same had not been complied with.

Shipping and Transport.

In a subsequent despatch from H.M. Consul-General it is stated that a British line of steamers has been started, called the "Canadian Lines, Ltd."; their steamers are now running twice a month from Rotterdam, calling at Havre, for Quebec and Montreal, taking both passengers and cargo. This line has been subsidised by the Canadian Government, and is already carrying a large number of emigrants and first-class passengers, and, in the opinion of the Consul-General, it looks as if the great difficulty which has attended the establishment of a line of steamers between continental ports and Canada has been overcome.

FRANCE—SENEGAL.

Railway from Kayes to Bamako.

The "Journal Officiel du Sénégal," states that the railway from Kayes to Bamako is now completed, the journey between those places having been satisfactorily accomplished by a train on the 19th May. The completion of this work establishes railway communication between the Senegal and the Niger. According to a despatch from the Governor-General of French West Africa, it is probable that the line will be open for traffic in July.

VENEZUELA.

Re-opening of Orinoco Ports.

The "London Gazette" of 24th June, publishes the text of a Decree issued by the President of Venezuela together with a translation thereof, which have been received at the Foreign Office from H.M. Minister at Caracas.

Article 1 of the Decree provides that the Custom House of "Cristóbal Colón" established by an Executive Decree of the 7th of December, 1903, was to commence carrying out its duties from the 1st of June; its jurisdiction shall be between the Promontory of Paria and the mouth of the Rio Grande.

By Article 2, the Custom House of Ciudad Bolivar is declared open, and is to enjoy the same powers and have the same duties, with the same jurisdiction, as before its closure.

By Article 3, it is provided that the Customs at Tucacas, established by Executive Decree of November 28th, 1903, was to begin to perform its duties from the 1st of June, and its jurisdiction shall extend from the mouth of the Aroa to the mouth of the Güeque. The resolution passed by the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit on the 28th of November, 1903, is consequently revoked.

Article 4. provides that the Customs at La Vela, temporarily closed by Executive Decree of the 27th May, 1903, is again opened to the import, export, and coasting trades, and is to have the same powers and duties as those which it enjoyed prior to its closure. The jurisdiction of this Custom House shall lie between the mouth of the Güeque and Cape Oribono.

Shipping and Transport.

BRAZIL.

Coasting Trade Concession.

A despatch has been received at the Foreign Office, from H.M. Minister at Rio de Janeiro, forwarding a translation of a Decree granting a concession for the formation of a company, having its head office at Santos, to engage in the coasting trade of Brazil.

Stipulations are made in the clauses of the concession as to the number and tonnage of the steamers to be employed and other details of the service.

The Government reserves to itself the right of free passage for certain officials, and other privileges; and the question of the charges for passengers and freights, as well as the general programme of the service, are to be submitted to the Ministry of Industry.

The concessionnaires will enjoy the same privileges as the Lloyd Brazileiro (see "Board of Trade Journal" for 20th February, 1902, p. 368), except the subsidy, and provision is made for the settlement of differences between the concessionnaires and the Government, by arbitration.

The contract is for ten years, with the option of renewal by mutual agreement.

CHINA.

Steamer Communication between Chinanfu and Yangchiaokou.

A despatch has been received at the Board of Trade from H.M. Consul at Chefoo reporting that the Chairman of the local Chamber of Commerce, has obtained permission from the Governor of Shantung to establish a company for the purpose of connecting Chinanfu with the coast by shallow draft steamers on canals and rivers. The capital of the company is 100,000 taels, in 1,000 shares of 100 taels each; this has been already fully subscribed by Chinese merchants and officials in the Province. Four tugs have been ordered from Shanghai and Tsingtau, and will be sent up to Yangchiaokou and put on the Hsiao Ch'ing Ho in June or July. These vessels will draw only two feet (the depth of the river they have to navigate being in places only 2 ft. 6 in.), and will each be of about 36 h.p., and capable of towing about 100 tons of goods laden in small barges.

As the Hsiao Ch'ing Ho does not approach Chinanfu nearer than about three miles, a tramline will be laid to connect the canal with the city. This will be worked by ponies, the Governor up to the present declining to sanction the employment of steam or electric power.

Shipping and Transport.

JAPAN.

Railway Statistics for 1903.

The following particulars, relating to railways in Japan during the year 1903, are taken from the "Sun Trade Journal" (Tokyo):—

"But little progress was made in railway extension during 1903, the new mileage opened of both Government and private railways being only 211 miles. It had been anticipated that foreign capital would have been obtained for the prosecution of schemes for improved communication, surveys having been made and charters granted for a considerable addition to the mileage now in operation, but the security offered to foreign capitalists by railway promoters appears to have been unsatisfactory, and consequently the required assistance was not forthcoming. There was a falling off in the passenger traffic on both Government and private lines during the year, but a slight increase in the receipts; the latter fact is due to the raising of rates. The goods traffic makes a better showing by the carriage of 1,712,919 tons of freight more than in the previous year, which increased the receipts by 3,894,882 yen. The following are the figures for the year under review:—

—	Total Mileage.		Increase over the previous year.	
	Miles.	Chains.	Miles.	Chains.
Government railways	1,226	56	167	8
Private railways	3,010	60	44	12
Total	4,237	36	211	20

—	Passengers.	Receipts.
	No.	Yen.
Government railways...	31,897,045	11,547,952
Private railways	78,121,456	17,104,366
Total	110,018,501	28,652,318

—	Goods.	Receipts.
	Tons.	Yen.
Government railways...	3,183,720	5,692,088
Private railways	12,938,951	14,088,743
Total	16,122,671	19,780,831

NOTE.—Yen = 2*s.* 0½*d.*

MINERALS, METALS AND MACHINERY.

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH—NEW SOUTH WALES.

Mineral Industry.

The Board of Trade have received, from the Agent-General for New South Wales, particulars of the mineral industry of that State during the first quarter of the current year, which show the yield of gold to have been 103,448 crude ozs. (87,048 fine ozs.) valued at 369,755*l.*

The quantity and value of the silver, copper, tin and coal exported from the State during the first quarter of the year are as follows:—

Product.		Quantity.	Value.
			£
Silver, ingots and matte	ozs.	299,510	31,517
Silver-lead, concentrates, ore, &c.	tons	81,078	410,024
Copper, ingots and ore	,,	2,394	121,170
Tin, ingots and ore...	,,	590	73,058
Coal to Australasian and other ports	,,	718,200	317,907
Total value		—	953,676

These figures indicate a net increase of 109,549*l.* in value as compared with the corresponding period last year. Substantial increases are shown in the value of silver, copper and tin exported, but the export of coal shows a decrease of 94,126*l.* on that of the first quarter of the year 1903.

The copper and tin exports include metal, to the value of 13,047*l.* and 32,618*l.* respectively, refined in the State from imported ores. With these exceptions the figures represent the output of the mines of New South Wales.

FEDERATED MALAY STATES.

Tin Exports, First Quarter of 1904.

The following statement, showing the weight of tin and tin ore (tin exported in the form of ore being taken at 68 per cent. of the gross weight of the ore) exported from the Federated Malay States during the first quarter of 1904, with corresponding figures for the first quarter of the previous year, is taken from the "Selangor Government Gazette" of 29th April:—

Minerals, Metals, and Machinery.

—	First Quarter of 1903.			First Quarter of 1904.		
	Tin.	Tin exported in the form of Ore.	Total.	Tin.	Tin exported in the form of Ore.	Total.
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Perak	39,994·46	60,606·09	100,600·55	35,059·92	67,072·73	102,132·65
Selangor ...	29,450·03	38,216·78	67,666·81	29,859·19	40,350·12	70,209·31
Negri Sembilan	8,415·47	9,879·83	18,295·30	10,431·42	8,824·72	19,256·14
Pahang... ...	1,664·15	4,574·51	6,238·66	881·69	3,477·52	4,359·21
Totals ...	79,524·11	113,277·21	192,801·32	76,232·22	119,725·09	195,957·31

NOTE.—Picul = 133⅓ lbs.

GERMANY.

Coal Trade of Hamburg.

The following table showing the quantities of the different descriptions of British coal imported into Hamburg during the last two years is taken from the recent report of H.M. Consul-General at that port. The imports of German and American coal for the same years are also given :—

Description.	1902.	1903.
	Tons.	Tons.
Northumberland and Durham	1,416,673	1,684,474
Midland	465,214	400,478
Scotch	782,625	865,383
Welsh	112,257	115,605
Coke	6,053	1,458
Total British	2,782,822	3,067,398
German	1,807,774	1,911,135
American	10,525	Nil

(*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 3,186.)

FRANCE.

German Coal at La Rochelle.

The British Vice-Consul at La Rochelle, in his report for 1903, remarks as follows :—

"In the course of the year there arrived 10,810 tons of German coal, as compared with 2,611 tons during 1902. The greater part of this was small coal for making briquettes, for which purpose it is said to be very suitable. A cargo of German steam coal had previously been brought here for use in the locomotives of the State railways, but

Minerals, Metals, and Machinery.

it did not give satisfaction, as it had a tendency to cake, and was found to obstruct furnace bars.

"The German coal imported here is Westphalian, and, I believe, was exported by the Rühr Syndicate. I am informed here that Westphalian coal is beginning to be imported into France in considerable quantities for conversion into coke for use in blast furnaces. It is said to be bituminous in nature, and to leave but little ash and residue; it is washed before shipment.

"As regards the competition of German with British coal here, Welsh steam coal is preferred to Westphalian, as it is less bituminous and gives less furnace dross.

"The prices of Westphalian coal quoted c.i.f. here are, I am informed, approximately the same as those quoted for British coal; but the German exporters sometimes enquire British prices and then quote a little below them." (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 3,184.)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Sheep Shearing Machine.

Referring to the decline in the Californian wool clip owing to land in California becoming too valuable to graze sheep on, H.M. Consul-General at San Francisco, in his annual report (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 3,185), writes:—"It may be remarked that the sheep shearing machine, to which allusion was made in the last report as having entirely supplanted the sheep shears so long supplied exclusively from the United Kingdom, is now retailed at 12 dol. 75 c. (about 2*l.* 12*s.*) and is sold by thousands."

The reference to which H.M. Consul-General alludes is as follows:—"Sheep shears will probably soon cease to be necessary, as a new American machine, costing only a few dollars, has quite recently been put on the market."

Combined Harvesting and Threshing Machine.

In the course of his annual report, the British Vice-Consul at Los Angeles remarks that, in the San Fernando Valley, which commences at the north boundary of the city, 200,000 acres are usually planted with wheat. On one of the large ranches in this valley a combined harvesting and threshing machine, with a 50 horse-power engine, reaps and threshes a swath 36 ft. wide and 3½ miles long per hour. This machine weighs 100 tons. Oil is used for fuel. The grain is delivered in sacks by the machine as a part of the operation. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 3,185.)

YARNS AND TEXTILES.

BRITISH INDIA.

Cotton Spinning and Weaving Returns for March.

The Board of Trade have received a copy of the monthly return issued by the Indian Government, showing the quantity of cotton yarn spun, and of cotton woven goods produced in each province in British India, and in the Native States, during March of each of the years 1902, 1903 and 1904, and in the 12 months ended March, 1902, 1903 and 1904.

The following is a summarised statement extracted from the above return, giving particulars for the years ended March, 1902, 1903 and 1904:—

		Years ended March.		
		1902.	1903.	1904.
BRITISH INDIA, BERAR, AND NATIVE STATES. (*a*)				
Cotton yarn spun	Lbs.	572,938,166	576,234,526	577,621,945
Cotton woven goods produced:—				
Grey goods	"	99,556,572	99,492,820	111,493,609
	=Yards	409,744,993	406,316,717	457,391,263
White and coloured goods	Lbs.	19,636,162	22,815,046	25,914,274
Hosiery	"	457,951	466,148	635,511

(*a*) Berar was amalgamated with the Central Provinces on 1st October, 1903.

AGRICULTURE.

UNITED KINGDOM.

Corn Prices.

The prices of British corn per quarter of 8 bushels, as received from the inspectors and officers of Excise in the week ended the 25th June, were as follow:—

Wheat	26*s.* 5*d.*
Barley	19*s.* 2*d.*
Oats	16*s.* 10*d.*

For further particulars see p. 616.

Imports of Agricultural Produce.

A statement is published on p. 617, showing the quantities of the various descriptions of agricultural produce imported into the United Kingdom during the week ended the 25th June, 1904, as well as of the imports during the corresponding week of 1903.

Agriculture.

BRITISH INDIA.

Wheat Crop, 1903-04.

The Statistical Department of the Government of India has recently issued a memorandum on the wheat crop of the season 1903-04, from which the following particulars are taken :—

This season has been exceptionally favourable for wheat, and the good crop of last year has been exceeded by 20 per cent. in area and 21 per cent. in yield; yet with an addition of more than 4½ million acres, the harvested area is still below the level of the early nineties, that is, before 1895-96, when began the series of bad seasons that so sorely afflicted the central and western regions of India. But in the principal wheat-growing tracts of Northern India, where the crop is most prolific and from which the supplies for export are so largely drawn, the area is the largest on record, the excess over the highest other year being 975,000 acres in the United Provinces and 360,000 in the Punjab, where cultivation has extended on the Chenab and Jhelum Canals. In the matter of yield, moreover, this crop stands pre-eminent, and the total of 9,390,000 tons, is 1,600,000 tons more than the large crop of 1902-03. In the United Provinces the season was not quite so good and in Bengal about the same as last year, but in the Punjab and in the North-West Frontier the copious rain in March was highly beneficial and an exceptionally good harvest resulted. These same rains, however, which extended into the Central Provinces and Berar came too late to benefit the earlier crop of those regions which had suffered somewhat from want of moisture, but on the contrary did considerable damage, so that the very favourable anticipations formed earlier in the season were not fully realised. The crop has been least successful in Bombay, but fortunately the unfavourable conditions were most prevalent where the area under wheat is not important, and Sind has had an extremely good crop. In all the other territories also there has been a favourable harvest. The outturn in Berar appears to have been under-estimated, as 181 lbs. to the acre is an extremely low yield for the declared condition of the crop. A very low rate, 199 lbs. to the acre, has also been returned by Hyderabad.

The exports during the last five years have been :—

	Tons.
1899-1900	485,204
1900-01	2,501
1901-02	366,091
1902-03	514,607
1903-04	1,295,566

Export of Indigo.

The Indian Financial Statement for 1904-5, recently issued as a Parliamentary publication, contains the following particulars of the exports of indigo during the last five years :—

Agriculture.

BRITISH INDIA—*continued.*

	Cwts.		£	
1898-99 ...	135,000	valued at	1,980,000	Exports by sea, besides a small quantity annually exported across the land frontiers of India.
1899-1900 ..	111,000	,,	1,795,000	
1900-01 ...	102,000	,,	1,424,000	
1901-02 ...	90,000	,,	1,235,000	
1902-03 ...	65,000	,,	804,000	

The following particulars of the jute export trade are taken from the same publication :—

Export of Jute.

Year.	Raw Jute. Quantity.	Raw Jute. Value.	Jute Manufactures. Value.	Total Exports. Value.
	Cwts.	£	£	£
1883–84	7,018,000	3,062,000	890,000	3,952,000
1891–92	8,532,000	4,566,000	1,675,000	6,241.000
1897–98	15,023 000	6,754,000	3,954,000	10,708,000
1898–99	9,865,000	4,628 000	3,866,000	8,494,000
1900–01	12,415.000	7.245,000	5,243,000	12,488,000
1901–02	14,755,000	7,865,000	5,807.000	13,672,000
1902–03	13.036,000	7,418,000	6,013,000	13,431,000

Of the raw jute exports in 1902-03, nearly 43 per cent. went to the United Kingdom, 19 per cent. to Germany, nearly 14 per cent. to the United States of America, and nearly 13 per cent. to France; of the manufactured jute, 10 per cent. went to the United Kingdom, 35 per cent. to the United States of America, and 9 per cent. to Australia.

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH—SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Wheat Harvest, 1903–04.

The following table, showing the produce and the average yield per acre of wheat, and also the produce and the average yield per acre of wheat cut for hay, during the seasons 1902–03 and 1903–04 respectively, has been prepared from statistics published in the "South Australian Government Gazette" of 28th April :—

Division.	Wheat. 1902-03.	Wheat. 1903-04.	Average yield per acre. 1902-03.	Average yield per acre. 1903-04.	Wheat for hay. 1902-03.	Wheat for hay. 1903-04.	Average yield per acre. 1902-03.	Average yield per acre. 1903-04.
	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
I. Central	2,921,152	4,806,433	7·59	9·21	205,546	270,665	1·04	1·37
II. Lower North ...	2,351,692	5,082,696	6·09	10·26	65,114	128,794	·74	1·32
III. Upper North ...	345,360	2,052,454	2·97	5·48	9,485	40,173	·60	1·01
IV. South-Eastern ...	288,090	401,287	8·25	8·27	24,877	30,284	1·34	1·29
V. Western	448,618	866,595	3·18	5·64	3,803	9,807	·58	·83
Grand total ...	6,354,912	13,209,465	5·98	8·29	308,825	479,723	·95	1·30
Increase ...	—	6,854,553	—	2·31	—	170,898	—	·35
Decrease ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Agriculture.

ZANZIBAR PROTECTORATE.

Clove Crop of Pemba.

A despatch has been received at the Foreign Office from the Acting British Consul-General at Zanzibar, respecting the clove crop in Pemba.

The clove trees throughout all districts of this island are said to be bearing heavily, and the crop promises to be an abundant one.

GERMANY—AFRICAN COLONIES.

Sisal Hemp and Aloe Fibre Trade at Hamburg.

In his report for 1903, H.M. Consul-General at Hamburg remarks that whilst the market for Mexican sisal hemp was very quiet and imports small last year, German East African sisal found ready purchasers, owing to its excellent quality, and about 350 tons were sold at Hamburg. Mauritius aloe fibre was not imported at all last year, but about 500 tons German East African aloe fibre were imported and easily disposed of.

Indiarubber Cultivation in German Colonies.

In the same report, the Consul-General states that much attention has been given of late in Germany to the necessity of improving the existing condition of indiarubber cultivation in German African colonies, where the same has not developed as it was hoped, and in some of the colonies the production has in fact been diminishing. Those producing most indiarubber at present are Cameroon and East Africa, but the exportation of both together did not exceed 130,000*l.* in value in 1902. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 3,186.)

ITALY.

Olive Oil Production, 1903-04.

According to figures published in the "Bolletino delle Finanze," 3,200,000 hectolitres of olive oil were produced in Italy during the season of 1903-04. These figures show an increase of 1,410,000 hectolitres on the preceding year, and of 220,000 hectolitres on the average production of recent years.

OTTOMAN EMPIRE.

Lattakia Tobacco Crop and Trade.

A despatch has been received at the Foreign Office, from the British Vice-Consul at Beirut, on the Lattakia tobacco crop and trade. He states that the course of the trade in the year 1903 was not so profitable as in former years either for planters or for dealers.

The average price realised in 1903 was 64*l.* per ton as compared with 120*l.* in 1902.

Agriculture.

It is expected that it will be worse this season, as the price offered by the "Regie" to the planters is 25 per cent less than last year.

Shipments to England, which at one time promised to play an important part in the business of the port of Beirut, in consequence of the great demand for London in 1902-3, having disappointed expectations, planters diminished their cultivation last year to such an extent that this year's crop may be estimated at only 9,000 bags as compared with 20,000 bags in 1903.

In consequence of this depreciation in the price it is expected that many planters will probably abandon the cultivation of the "Abou-Rika" tobacco.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Beet-sugar production of California.

H.M. Consul-General at San Francisco in his recent report to the Foreign Office, states that there are 48,150 acres under beet in California, and the total beet sugar output for the 1902 season was 73,761 short tons (of 2,000 lbs.), having doubled during the last three years. The production for 1903 is estimated at about 77,000 short tons. California now holds the first place in the United States in beet sugar production, with Michigan second with 54,753 short tons, and Colorado third with 38,777 tons. There are eight factories in California with a combined daily capacity of 11,800 tons of beets.

Future of Californian Wheat Industry.

With regard to the wheat industry, the Consul-General points out that the acreage under wheat in California is decreasing steadily owing to lands being more profitably devoted to intensive cultivation such as vineyards, fruits, &c. The method of farming employed does nothing to replace the chemical constituents taken from the soil by continued years of cropping. The population is increasing rapidly, both by natural process and immigration, and the home consumption—usually estimated at about 6 bushels per head, causing increased local demand—added to a decreasing wheat area, and the impoverishment of lands, points to the export of wheat gradually decreasing. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 3,185.)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA—PORTO RICO.

Cotton Cultivation.

H.M. Consul at Porto Rico, in his report for 1903, states that cotton cultivation experienced an active revival all over the island under the auspices of an American firm, which supplied a considerable quantity of seed gratis.

About 10,000 acres are said to have been planted with cotton during the year and to have yielded satisfactorily (some 5,000 bales), both as regards quantity and quality.

Agriculture.

The results are pronounced capable of important improvement as soon as the now inexperienced cultivators, pickers and handlers have mastered the methods of the novel industry.

At present the introducers of the venture contrast the native labour very unfavourably with that in the American cotton fields and ginneries.

Ginneries have been erected at San Juan, and other plants will follow at various points of the island to meet requirements that, it is anticipated, will be doubled or trebled in a short time.

The sort is "Sea Island." To the end of the year cotton to the value of 871*l*, was exported to the United States. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 3,177.)

MISCELLANEOUS.

UNITED KINGDOM.

Cotton Statistics.

The number of bales of cotton imported into the United Kingdom during the week ended the 23rd June, 1904, was 22,989, and the number imported during the 25 weeks ended the 23rd June was 1,595,790. As regards exports, the figures are, for the week ended the 23rd June, 1904, 7,801 bales, and for the 25 weeks, 224,911.

For further details see p. 616.

CANADA.

Fishing Industry of 1902-03.

The subjoined statistics of the fishing industry of Canada are taken from the "Canadian Manufacturer" of 3rd June:—

"The total value of fish and of fish products of the Dominion of Canada for the fiscal year ended 30th June, 1903, aggregated 21,959,433 dols., divided among the seven provinces as follows:—Nova Scotia, 7,351,753 dols.; British Columbia, 5,284,824 dols.; Quebec, 2,059,175 dols.; New Brunswick, 3,912,514 dols.; Ontario, 1,265,706 dols.; Manitoba and North-West Territories, 1,198,437 dols.; and Prince Edward Island, 887,024 dols. For the season of 1901–2 the yield was 25,737,153 dols., exceeding the present season by 3,777,720 dols.

"There were engaged in the various branches of the industry during the season 77,801 men, using fishing gear and fixtures representing a capital of 11,305,959 dols. The value of the lobster plant alone, comprising 723 canneries, is estimated at 1,287,656 dols. A total of 13,563 persons were employed in this industry. The salmon-canning industry of British Columbia,

Miscellaneous.

comprising 75 establishments, valued at 1,500,000 dols., gave employment to 17,098 persons, and preserved over 30,103,776 cans of salmon. The quantity of fish used as bait was valued at 352,696 dols., and the output of fish oil at 230,439 dols. The fur skins of British Columbia realised 337,660 dols.

"During the fiscal year the value of fish and fish products, as well as of marine animals, exported from Canada to foreign countries was 11,826,646 dols."

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

Imports of Articles of Food and Drink.

The following particulars of imports of the principal articles of food and drink into the Straits Settlements are taken from a report drawn up by the Registrar of Imports and Exports in that Colony:—

—	United Kingdom.		Continent of Europe.		Other Countries.	
	1902.	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.	1903.
	Dollars.	Dollars.	Dollars.	Dollars.	Dollars.	Dollars.
Biscuits	257,000	314,000	174,000	76,000	2,000 *	2,000 *
Butter and cheese	11,000	11,000	210,000	212,000	79,000 *	143,000 *
Confectionery ...	56,000	59,000	10,000	4,000	2,000 *	2,000 *
Malt liquors ...	372,000	447,000	955,000	928,000	6,000 †	2,000 †
Milk	20,000	25,000	831,000	875,000	38,000 †	106,000 †
Oilman's stores ...	434,000	455,000	234,000	206,000	124,000 †	121,000 †
Provisions ...	190,000	185,000	136,000	153,000	31,000 †	35,000 †
Hams and bacons	103,000	142,000	5,000	5,000	18,000 †	15,000 †
Brandy	519,000	534,000	604,000	734,000	1,000*	2,000*
Gin	24,000	39,000	315,000	317,000	—	—
Whisky	518,000	574,000	20,000	23,000	—	—
Tobacco, cigars and cigarettes ...	553,000	550,000	160,000	259,000	65,000†	295,000†
Champagne ...	16,000	16,000	102,000	115,000	—	—
Claret	5,000	8,000	66,000	72,000	—	1.000†
Port	68,000	70,000	43,000	78,000	8,000‡	10,000‡

* Australia. † United States. ‡ Gibraltar.

German imports of biscuits have decreased owing probably to the demand from the Philippines having largely fallen off. Scotch ales show well up. Milk from America is being pushed with great energy, finding a market chiefly in the outports, but Anglo-Swiss brands hold the market locally. The quantity of potato spirit from Germany classed as brandy nearly doubled in import quantities.

American cigarettes have flooded the market, retailing as low as 6 cents, less than 1½*d.* per packet of 20, and over 20 million cigarettes, or 1 million packets per month, are sold of this class, Burma Ports taking considerable quantities from Singapore.

Miscellaneous.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

Trade in 1902.

The following table, showing the total value of the imports and exports of the Leeward Islands during the three years 1900–1902, is compiled from figures contained in the report on the Colony recently issued by the Colonial Office:—

Country.	Imports.			Exports.		
	1900.	1901.	1902.	1900.	1901.	1902.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom... ...	141,131	160,827	165,958	61,673	60,374	78,292
British Colonies	55,810	51,441	56,941	45,547	48,071	129,611
United States of America	140,022	137,496	143,521	154,121	183,696	92,617
Other Foreign Countries..	9,432	8,466	8,107	17,679	15,203	17,315
Total	346,395	358,230	374,527	279,020	307,344	317,835

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

Trade in 1903.

The following table giving the total value of the imports and exports of the Falkland Islands for the five years 1899–1903, is taken from the report recently issued by the Colonial Office:—

—	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.
	£	£	£	£	£
Imports	73,978	66,948	74,765	63,851	66,416
Exports	132,203	111,539	110,294	90,838*	115,915†
Totals ...	213,181	178,487	185,059	164,689	182,331

* Includes £2,000 specie.
† Mostly wool. Seal-skins transhipped are not included.

The United Kingdom sent 89 per cent. of the imports, and received all the exports. The balance of the imports was distributed between Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, and New Zealand.

DANISH WEST INDIES.

New Currency Law.

H.M. Consul at Copenhagen reports that the following laws were passed by the Danish Government during the session 1903–04, for the purpose of promoting the welfare of the Danish West Indian Islands:—

"The unit (coin) is to be 1 fr. of 100 bits; 5 fr. equal 1 West

Miscellaneous.

Indian dol.; 5 bits equal 1 c. The following values will be coined:—

Gold	50, 25 and 20 fr.
Silver	5, 2 and 1 fr., and 50 bits.
Nickel	25 bits.
Bronze	10, 5 and $2\frac{1}{2}$ bits.

"A concession is given to the following four banks at Copenhagen, viz., National Bank, Private Bank, Handel's Bank, Landman's Bank, jointly to establish a bank (limited), which shall be entitled to issue notes for a period of 30 years. The share capital shall be 5,000,000 fr. (1,000,000 West Indian dols., or 200,000*l.*). The amount of notes issued may be up to 10,000,000 fr. (400,000*l.*), subject to the condition that the bank is always in possession of a metallic reserve amounting to three-eighths of the amount of notes in circulation, and of effects that can easily be realised as security for five-eights of the amount of notes in circulation."

"The bank is to be called the Danish West India National Bank, and to pay an annual tax of 10 per cent. of its net profits to the Danish treasury.

"Permission is given to establish a lottery at St. Thomas." (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 3,180.)

GERMANY.

Chamber for Retail Traders at Hamburg.

H.M. Consul-General at Hamburg reports that, with a view of promoting the interests of the large number of retail dealers in the town of Hamburg, a chamber for the retail trade has recently been organised there under the auspices of the authorities, upon about the same lines as the Hamburg Chamber of Commerce. This chamber is to consist of 18 members, elected by and from the various branches of the retail trade, and one of the members of the chamber will be chosen as its delegate for attending the regular sittings of the permanent committee of the Hamburg Government for trade and navigation. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 3,186.)

FRANCE—FRENCH CONGO.

Trade in 1903.

According to the "Dépêche Coloniale" of 26th June, the value of the trade of the French Congo during 1903 (exclusive of the imports of specie and materials for public works) was as shown in the following table. The figures for 1902 are given for the purpose of comparison:—

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——	1902.	1903.	Increase in 1903.
	Francs.	Francs.	Francs.
Imports	4,933,972	6,223,774	1,289,802
Exports	7,735,428	9,149,410	1,413,982
Total value	12,669,400	15,373,184	2,703,784

The increase in imports is chiefly shown in piece-goods, salt, spirituous liquors, steam engines and tobacco.

The following table shows the quantity and value of the principal exports in 1903:—

Articles.	Quantity.	Value.
	Kilogs.	Francs.
Ivory	189,783	3,741,927
Palm nuts	620,936	142,302
Coffee	38,421	30,395
Cocoa	49,854	73,068
Palm oil...	98,052	44,298
Copal	29,445	17,821
Indiarubber	842,544	3,370,173
Ebony wood	1,403,865	287,496
Other woods	12,395,621	1,301,808
Piassava...	137,490	61,331

The exports of indiarubber show an increase of 607,654 fr., those of woods other than ebony, an increase of 606,418 fr., and those of ivory an increase of 446,249 fr. over the preceding year.

BULGARIA.

Insurance Companies in Burgas.

The following particulars relating to insurance companies in Bulgaria, are taken from a recent report by the French Consul at Burgas:—

It is only during the last twenty years that insurance agencies have been established in the department of Burgas. At first, but little business was done by these agencies; but the natives have gradually been convinced of the benefits to be derived from insurance, and the majority of business people now insure their premises and goods against fire. Life insurance companies, however, find comparatively few clients in the department, the population of which is 312,463.

The only marine insurance companies, represented by agents at Burgas, are three German houses. These companies do business on but a small scale. Most of the valuable cargoes of grain are insured in London or Antwerp.

An American company have secured the major portion of the

Miscellaneous.

life insurance business, their premiums amounting to 3,200*l.* a year. A French company are also represented; but their terms are not so advantageous as those of the American company and their business is very limited. Two native companies are represented in this department; but they also suffer from American competition and the two combined are said to secure only about 400*l.* annually in premiums.

A French company do by far the largest amount of fire insurance. Two native companies and a British company are also represented; but their business has tended to diminish rather of recent years, most of it passing into the hands of the French company.

TURKEY.

Trade in 1899-1900.

According to the report of the British Chamber of Commerce of Turkey for 1903, the latest statistics published by the Turkish Custom-house are for the year 1315 (13th March, 1899, to 12th March, 1900). The total value of the import trade during that year was 22,269,580*l.* distributed as follows:—

Imports.

From	1898-9.	1899-1900.
	£	£
United Kingdom	9,349,975	7,554,555
Austria and Germany	3,152,524	4,808,103
France	2,249,118	2,699,561
Other countries	9,449,512	7,207,361
Total	24,201,129	22,269,580

The percentage of the imports from the United Kingdom fell from 38·60 in 1898-99 to 33·95, in 1899-1900; that from Austria and Germany rose from 21·30 to 21·55, whilst the percentage from France expanded from 9·30 to 12·10.

The total value of the exports from Turkey in 1899-1900 amounted to 14,174,005*l.*, as against 12,204,945*l.* in 1898-99. The exports to Great Britain amounted to 5,013,349*l.*, or 35·40 per cent. of the whole, as against 4,208,715*l.*, or 34·50 per cent. The exports to France, Germany, and Austria together for 1899-1900 amounted to 6,087,144*l.*, or 43 per cent. of the whole, being the same as the previous year.

Miscellaneous.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

British Share of California Export and Import Trade.

In his report on the trade of 1903, recently issued by the Foreign Office, H.M. Consul-General at San Francisco gives the following details:—

"From statistics prepared by the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, the export trade of purely Californian products sent hence by sea—*not therefore including goods sent by rail to the Atlantic coast*—was valued at 6,350,000*l.*

"The share taken by the British Empire was:—

—	Value.
	£
United Kingdom	1,910,611
Canada	232.286
Hong-Kong	736,759
Australasia	958,803
Other Colonies	160,648
Total	3,999,107

or nearly two-thirds of the whole.

"The total value of the import trade at San Francisco for goods coming by sea is returned by the same authority as 7,304,437*l.*

"The British share was:—

—	Value.
	£
United Kingdom	462,959
Canada	314,387
British East Indies	557,462
Australasia	277,370
Other colonies	4,631
Total	1,616,789

"The Empire's total should really be larger, as in these tables certain British ports in the East are included in 'China.'"

STATISTICAL TABLES.

Cotton Returns.

Return of the Number of Bales of Cotton Imported and Exported at the Various Ports of the United Kingdom during the Week and 25 Weeks ended 23rd June, 1904.

—	Week ended 23rd June, 1904.	25 Weeks ended 23rd June, 1904.	Week ended 23rd June, 1904.	25 Weeks ended 23rd June, 1904.
	Imports. (Bales.)		Exports. (Bales.)	
	No.	No.	No.	No.
American	14,733	1,128,149	4,516	138,845
Brazilian	60	75,572	—	3,552
East Indian	3,897	136,366	1,728	31,956
Egyptian	3,168	226,225	1,437	46,182
Miscellaneous	1,131*	29,478	120	4,376
Total	22,989	1,595,790	7,801	224,911

* Including 104 bales British West African and 195 bales British West Indian.

Corn Prices.

Statement showing the Average Price of British Corn, per quarter of 8 bushels, Imperial Measure,* as received from the Inspectors and Officers of Excise in the week ended 25th June, 1904, and corresponding weeks of the seven previous years pursuant to the Corn Returns Act, 1882.

—	Average Price.					
	Wheat.		Barley.		Oats.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Week ended 25th June, 1904	26	5	19	2	16	10
Corresponding week in—						
1897	27	1	18	10	18	7
1898	38	3	23	4	20	8
1899	25	7	24	2	18	0
1900	26	11	23	4	19	3
1901	27	6	25	4	20	0
1902	30	5	24	3	22	9
1903	27	6	22	0	18	6

* Section 8 of the Corn Returns Act, 1882, provides that where returns of purchases of British Corn are made to the local inspector of Corn Returns in any other measure than the Imperial bushel or by weight or by a weighed measure that officer shall convert such returns into the Imperial bushel, and in the case of weight or weighed measure the conversion is to be made at the rate of sixty Imperial pounds for every bushel of wheat, fifty Imperial pounds for every bushel of barley, and thirty-nine Imperial pounds for every bushel of oats.

Imports of Agricultural Produce into the United Kingdom.

Account showing the Quantities of certain kinds of **Agricultural Produce** imported into the **United Kingdom** in the week ended 25th June, 1904, together with the quantities imported in the corresponding week of the previous year.

—		Week ended 25th June, 1904.	Corresponding week in 1903.
Animals, living :—			
Oxen, bulls, cows, and calves	Number.	13,645	12,497
Sheep and lambs	"	5,105	4,356
Swine	"	—	—
Horses	"	211	635
Fresh meat :—			
Beef...	Cwts.	64,055	95,185
Mutton	"	95,911	117,306
Pork	"	4,257	7,285
Salted or preserved meat :—			
Bacon	Cwts.	112,016	89,939
Beef	"	2,372	2,942
Hams	"	38,251	31,082
Pork	"	5,952	5,151
Meat, unenumerated, salted or fresh ...	"	10,823	15,073
Meat, preserved otherwise than by salting	"	11,072	12,817
Dairy produce and substitutes :—			
Butter	Cwts.	86,132	87,441
Margarine	"	18,375	15,938
Cheese	"	53,214	70,726
Milk, fresh, in cans or drums	"	—	—
" cream	"	195	174
" condensed	"	17,265	18,489
" preserved, other kinds	"	101	388
Eggs	Grt. Hundr.	379,155	440,505
Poultry and game	Value £	6,239	9,866
Game	"	2	
Rabbits, dead (not tinned)	Cwts.	248	45
Lard	"	46,745	24,366
Corn, grain, meal and flour :—			
Wheat	Cwts.	2,112,100	1,274,208
Wheat meal and flour	"	194,800	176,543
Barley	"	106,500	200,629
Oats	"	192,600	116,745
Peas	"	42,230	14,159
Beans	"	3,160	3,009
Maize or Indian corn	"	528,500	624,728
Fruit, raw :—			
Apples	Cwts.	26,587	4,012
Apricots and peaches	"	945	543
Bananas	Bunches.	105,240	59,236
Cherries	Cwts.	43,990	13,909
Currants	"	7,301	4,031
Gooseberries	"	10,248	6,428
Grapes	"	247	330
Lemons	"	17,424	38,004
Oranges	"	68,220	56,056
Pears	"	66	426
Plums	"	60	519
Strawberries	"	7,412	5,229
Unenumerated	"	5,826	3,394
Hay	Tons.	4,169	3,017
Straw	"	3,375	604
Hops	Cwts.	693	963
Locust beans...	"	30	1,720
Vegetables, raw :—			
Onions	Bushels.	109,242	25,800
Potatoes	Cwts.	424,470	410,407
Tomatoes	"	46,692	43,321
Unenumerated	Value £	11,379	7,191
Vegetables, dried	Cwts.	2,742	431
Preserved by canning	"	1,400	1,538

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

TRADE RETURNS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

The Monthly Accounts relating to the Trade and Navigation of the United Kingdom for the month of May, 1904, have been published. The accounts, which are issued on the 7th or 8th of each month, may be purchased at a cost, in the present instance, of 1*s.* per copy, either directly or through any bookseller, from Messrs. Eyre and Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, London, E.C., and 32, Abingdon Street, S.W.; or Messrs. Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh; or Edward Ponsonby, 116, Grafton Street, Dublin.

Attention is further called to the fact that the "Annual Statement of the Trade of the United Kingdom with Foreign Countries and British Possessions" for the year 1903, in two volumes, may be purchased at a cost of 7*s.* 1*d.* for the first, and 5*s.* for the second volume, at any of the addresses enumerated above. This publication, which contains much more detailed and exhaustive information than can be given in the Monthly Accounts, gives Abstract Tables for the years 1899-1903, and detailed statements of imports and exports of each article (from and to each country) in the first volume, and in the second volume details as to customs duties, trade in coin and bullion, transhipments, and articles in bond, and particulars of the trade of the United Kingdom with each foreign country.

THE LABOUR GAZETTE.

This Gazette is published by the Board of Trade about the 16th of each month. The following are among the more important articles which appear in the number issued on the 16th June:—State of the Labour Market in May; Dispute in London Cab Trade; Agricultural Wages in 1903; Annual Co-operative Congress; Franco-Italian Labour Convention; Labour Disputes in Germany in 1903; Emigration and Immigration in 1903; Prices of Bread, Wheat and Flour; Recent Conciliation and Arbitration Cases; Legal Cases affecting Labour; Reports on Employment in the Principal Industries, &c., &c.

FOREIGN OFFICE REPORTS.

The following is a *résumé* of some of the more interesting subjects dealt with in Consular Reports of the **Annual** and **Miscellaneous Series** issued since the last number of the "Board of Trade Journal."

No. 3,188. Trade of Malaga for 1903.

Commercial progress has suffered no material retardation during the year.

Increase in shipment of metals seems to denote that mining operations are developing.

Government Publications.

Concession for a light railway to Coin has been granted, and will in course of time work in with that to Nerja: these lines will open up various productive centres.

Proposal to substitute electric, for animal, traction on local tramways.

Concession has been granted for the new industry of sponge fishing on this coast.

This publication also contains reports from Adra, Aguilas, Almeria, Carthagena, Granada, Linares, Marbella, Mazarron, and Motril.

No. 3,189. Trade of Kermanshah for 1903-04.

The year ended 21st March, 1904, cannot on the whole, be pronounced to be unfavourable for trade. The prospects for next year are, however, not very promising.

Particulars of opium cultivation and export: on account of severe frost, the prospects of the new crop are very bad.

Remarks on other local industries: wool, tobacco, grain, gum, &c.

Particulars of imports of Manchester goods and Russian competition in these articles.

This publication also contains a report from Hamadan.

No. 3,190. Trade of Ningpo for 1903.

Total value of the trade of the port for 1903, is the highest on record.

Value of import trade in foreign goods amounted to 1,469,172*l.*, as compared with 1,171,963*l.* in 1902.

All cotton goods show a great improvement: the import of cotton yarns especially has largely advanced.

Woollens continue to decline; there is evidently no great demand for this class of goods.

Considerable advance in the import of iron, tin and lead, that of tin being especially noticeable.

No. 3,191. Trade of Rio Grande do Sul for 1901-03.

Information as to general features of the province.

Prices of all imported articles are very high, owing to the enormous duties, which in many cases are absolutely prohibitive.

The issue of Government or municipal contracts affords very little opportunity for British enterprise, owing to the shortness of the term of notice, which is only 30 days.

Gradual but steady improvement in trade and commerce during the past three years.

Details of principal imports from United Kingdom: ironmongery, earthenware, cotton fabrics, felt and straw hats, drugs, &c.

This publication also contains a report from Santa Catharina.

No. 3,192. Trade of Beirut and the Coast of Syria for 1903.

The opening of the Homs-Hama Railway gave a certain impetus to trade in the beginning of 1903, but towards the end of the summer a financial crisis occurred, causing general stagnation of business.

Government Publications.

New line of British steamers started, plying between London and the Syrian coast; there are now four British lines trading with Syria.

Decrease in British manufactured cotton imports, and in Lancashire iron.

Heavy port dues imposed on coal are very prejudicial to the development of this trade.

Large increase in exports from Beirut owing to the opening of the Homs-Hama Railway, and consequent transference of trade from Tripoli.

This publication also contains a report from Haifa.

No. 3,193. Trade of Stockholm and Eastern Coast of Sweden for 1903.

The year has been one of steady if somewhat slow progress. The railways show continued development and increased receipts, and excise and customs have yielded more than was anticipated.

Probable establishment of new ironworks.

Details of principal exports: iron ore, wood, &c.

Railway statistics: all the locomotives and waggons are now made in Sweden, but the attempts to manufacture rails have not yet proved successful.

Scheme for electrification of State railways.

Remarks on emigration, population, cost of living, &c.

This publication also contains reports from Gefle, Nyköping, Lulea and Sundsvall.

OTHER GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

Report on Strikes and Lock-Outs in the United Kingdom in 1903, *and on Conciliation and Arbitration Boards.* [*Cd.* 2,112.] *Price* 7*d.*

From this publication, which has been prepared in the Labour Department of the Board of Trade, it appears that the year 1903 was, on the whole, comparatively free from industrial stoppages. For some years past the number of disputes has been steadily decreasing, and in 1903 there were only 387, the average for the five years, 1898-1902, being 632, and for the five years, 1893-97, being 816.

The total number of workpeople involved in the 387 new disputes in 1903 was 117,000, or about 1 per cent. of the industrial population of the United Kingdom, exclusive of agricultural labourers and seamen. The disputes, new and old, in progress during the year resulted in the loss of about 2,300,000 working days, nearly three-fifths of this total being accounted for by disputes in the mining and quarrying industries. The results of the disputes during the year were, on the whole, distinctly in favour of the employers.

Government Publications.

LIST OF FOREIGN OFFICE REPORTS.

THE following Reports of H.M. Diplomatic and Consular Officers, which have been issued in the **Annual** and **Miscellaneous** Series since 1st January, 1904, may be obtained from Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C.

The titles of the Miscellaneous Series are printed in italics.

No.	Place.	Price
	EUROPE—	
	Belgium:	
3125	Antwerp: Shipping and Navigation 1903	1*d.*
3116	Belgium: Finances and Commerce in 1902 and Budget Estimates for 1904	2*d.*
604	*Canals and other Navigable Waterways of Belgium* ...	*11½d.*
612	*Customs Tariff of Belgium*	*1d.*
	Denmark:	
3113	Denmark (Supplementary) 1902	½*d.*
3119	Denmark (Financial condition)	1½*d.*
3180	Denmark 1903	3½*d.*
3138	Iceland... ... 1900–02	1½*d.*
	France and French Colonies:	
3184	Bordeaux 1903	2½*d.*
3176	Brest ... ... „	1½*d.*
3146	Calais ... ... „	2½*d.*
3149	Cherbourg ... ... „	2½*d.*
3181	Cochin-China ... ... „	2*d.*
3172	French Budget for 1904	2*d.*
3171	Havre 1903	3*d.*
3117	Indo-China 1902	1*d.*
3164	„ „ ... 1903–04	1*d.*
3130	Nantes 1903	1*d.*
3147	Pondicherry & Karikal „	1*d.*
	German Empire and Colonies:	
3145	Chemnitz 1903	4*d.*
3129	Estimates of the German Empire 1904	1*d.*
3153	Germany 1903	3*d.*
3137	Pomerania ... ... „	2*d.*
3186	Hamburg ... ... „	3½*d.*
601	*Technical Instruction in Germany: Special Schools and Courses for Mechanical Engineering and Electro-Technics*	*4½d.*
602	*Textile Technical Schools in Germany: Development of the Textile Industries*...	*5d.*
603	*Technical Schools in Germany for Special Branches of the Metal Industries* ...	*3d.*
608	*Special Schools for Ship Engineers in Germany* ...	*2½d.*
609	*Technical Instruction in Naval Architecture and Engineering in Germany*..	*2½d.*
611	*Navigation Schools in Germany*	*1d.*
613	*Projected Rhine-Neckar-Danube Ship Canal* ...	*3d.*
	Greece:	
3179	Cyclades 1903	1½*d.*
3126	Greece: Finances ...	7*d.*
3156	Morea and Provinces of Ætolia and Acarnania 1903	1½*d.*
3148	Thessaly ... ... „	2*d.*
3166	Piræus ... ... „	1½*d.*
	Italy:	
3120	Italy: Finances ...1903	1½*d.*
3118	South Italy ... ... „	2*d.*
605	*Changes in the Distribution of Works of Art in the Royal Galleries of Florence*	*1d.*
610	*Industrial Development of Italy*	*1½d.*
	Netherlands:	
3136	Amsterdam 1903	1*d.*
3163	Java ... ... „	1½*d.*
	Portugal:	
3183	North Portugal ...1903	1½*d.*
3178	South Portugal ... „	1*d.*
3187	Beira ... ... „	1½*d.*
	Russia:	
3128	Odessa 1902	2½*d.*
3142	Poland and Lithuania...1903	2½*d.*
3115	Rostov-on-Don ...1902	1½*d.*
3173	„ „ 1903	2½*d.*
	Servia:	
3139	Servia ... 1902 and nine months of 1903	1*d.*
	Spain:	
3152	Bilbao 1903	2½*d.*
3165	Galicia, Asturias, and Leon ... ... „	1½*d.*
3188	Malaga ... ... „	2½*d.*

Government Publications.

No.	Place.	Price
	Sweden:	
3193	Stockholm 1903	2*d.*
3123	Sweden ... 1902–04	1½*d.*
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3150	Switzerland 1903	½*d.*
	Turkey:	
3154	Aleppo and Adana ...1903	2*d.*
3168	Basra ... ... „	1*d.*
3192	Beirut and Coast of Syria ... ... „	1*d.*
3140	Constantinople ... „	2½*d.*
3170	Smyrna...	1½*d.*
3160	Trebizond 1903	1½*d.*
	AFRICA—	
3122	Alexandria 1902	2*d.*
3121	Egypt 1887–1902	2½*d.*
3135	Liberia 1903	1*d.*
3141	Tunis 1902	1½*d.*
606	*Prospects of Growing Cotton in the East Africa Protectorate ... ...*	*1d.*
607	*Country Produce Traffic on the Uganda Railway ...*	*1d.*
	AMERICA, NORTH—	
	Mexico:	
3112	Mexico 1902	2½*d.*
	United States of America:	
3175	Boston 1903	2*d.*
3133	Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and Kentucky ... ... „	2½*d.*
3159	New York ... ... „	2*d.*
3161	Philadelphia ... ... „	2½*d.*
3177	Porto Rico ... ... „	1½*d.*
3144	Texas 1903	2½*d.*
3185	California, Nevada, Utah, and Arizona ... „	2½*d.*
	AMERICA, SOUTH—	
	Argentina:	
3131	Argentine Finances, 1902-03	1½*d.*
3157	Rosario 1903	1*d.*
	Brazil:	
3191	Rio Grande do Sul, 1901-03	1½*d.*
	Chile:	
3124	Coquimbo	½*d.*
	Colombia:	
3114	Colombia	2½*d.*
	Peru:	
3134	Iquitos 1903	½*d.*
	ASIA—	
	China:	
3174	Chinkiang 1903	1*d.*
3151	Hankow ... ... „	1½*d.*
3162	Kiungchow ... ... „	1*d.*
3169	Newchwang ... ... „	1*d.*
3190	Ningpo .. .. „	½*d.*
3155	Swatow... ... ... „	1*d.*
3127	Tientsin ... 1900–03	6½*d.*
3158	Wuhu 1903	½*d.*
	Persia:	
3167	Kerman ... 1903–04	1*d.*
3189	Kermanshah ... „	2½*d.*
3182	Persian Gulf 1903	3*d.*
	Siam:	
3143	Chiengmai 1902	1½*d.*
	PACIFIC ISLANDS—	
3132	Samoa 1903	1*d.*

Treaty Series.

The following numbers of the Treaty Series issued since 1st January, 1904, may be obtained from the above-mentioned sources:—

No.	———	Price.
	EUROPE—	
	Denmark:	
—	Agreement between the Post Office of the United Kingdom and the Post Office of Denmark for the exchange of postal parcels	3*d.*
	Italy:	
3	Agreement between the United Kingdom and Italy providing for the settlement by arbitration of certain classes of questions which may arise	½*d.*

Government Publications.

No.		Price.
	Spain:	
4	Agreement between the United Kingdom and Spain providing for the Settlement by arbitration of certain classes of questions which may arise...	½*d.*
	AMERICA, NORTH—	
	United States of America:	
1	Convention between the United States and Hong Kong for the establishment of a parcel post service	1*d.*
2	Convention respecting Payment of Light and Harbour Dues by vessels of the United States in Zanzibar...	½*d.*

COLONIAL OFFICE REPORTS.

The following Reports relating to H.M. Colonial Possessions issued since 1st January, 1904, may be purchased from Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C.:—

Annual.

No.	Place.	Price.
413	British Guiana	3*d.*
—	Cyprus	3*d.*
—	Bahamas	1*s.* 2*d.*
414	Jamaica	5½*d.*
415	Falkland Islands	1½*d.*
416	Leeward Islands	3*d.*

Miscellaneous.

No.	Place.	Price.
26	Northern Nigeria. Report on Mineral and Vegetable Products	2*d.*

THE COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE BRANCH

OF THE

BOARD OF TRADE.

The Intelligence Branch of the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade was established in 1899, in consequence of a report by a Departmental Committee, with a view to meet the constantly increasing demand for prompt and accurate information on commercial matters in the interests of British trade, so far as it can be met by Government action. It is intended to be a centre at which information on all subjects of commercial interest shall be collected and focussed in a form convenient for reference. In addition, it is the duty of the Branch, as far as the interests of British Trade permit, to afford information in reply to enquiries by traders on commercial matters.

The office is housed at No. 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C., and (subject to the Comptroller-General of the Commercial, Statistical, and Labour Departments of the Board of Trade) is under the direction of Mr. T. Worthington. The Intelligence Branch endeavours, on application being made to it either personally or by letter, to supply information with regard to the following subjects, viz.: Commercial Statistics; Matters relating to Foreign and Colonial Tariffs and Customs Regulations; Lists of firms abroad engaged in particular lines of business in different localities; Foreign and Colonial Contracts open to Tender; Sources of Supply, Prices, &c., of Trade Products; Forms of Certificates of Origin; Regulations concerning Commercial Travellers, &c., &c.

In consequence of the transfer of the Imperial Institute to the Board of Trade from the beginning of last year, the work formerly carried on by the Commercial Intelligence Offices of the Imperial Institute is now conducted by the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade.

The Commercial Intelligence Branch is also in communication with the Imperial Institute at South Kensington, of which Professor Wyndham Dunstan, F.R.S., has been appointed director by the Board of Trade. Among the branches of work in charge of Professor Dunstan are the scientific investigation of the economic products of the British Empire with a view to their commercial utilisation, and the superintendence of the arrangement and classification of the Collections of these products which are exhibited at the Institute. From time to time samples and specimens of raw and manufactured products will be shown in the sample room at 73, Basinghall Street.

The "Board of Trade Journal" is the principal medium through which intelligence collected by the Commercial Intelligence Branch and intended for general information is conveyed to the public. The "Journal" is now issued weekly at the price of 1*d*. Supplements to the "Board of Trade Journal" are issued quarterly, under the title of the "Imperial Institute Bulletin," containing information and reports bearing on the work carried out in the Imperial Institute at South Kensington.

COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT, BOARD OF TRADE.

May, 1904.

UNIV. OF MICH.
AUG 8 1904

Vol. XLV. No. 396.

Price ONE PENNY.

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THE Board of Trade Journal

(With which is incorporated the "Imperial Institute Journal.")

Edited by the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade.

JUNE 30, 1904.

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* *For list of principal publications of Board of Trade see p.* xvii. *of Advertisements.*

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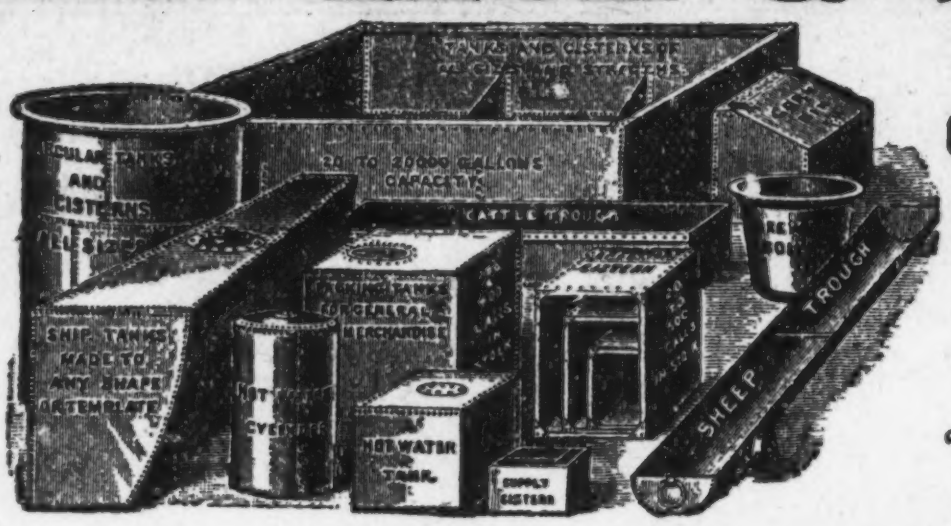

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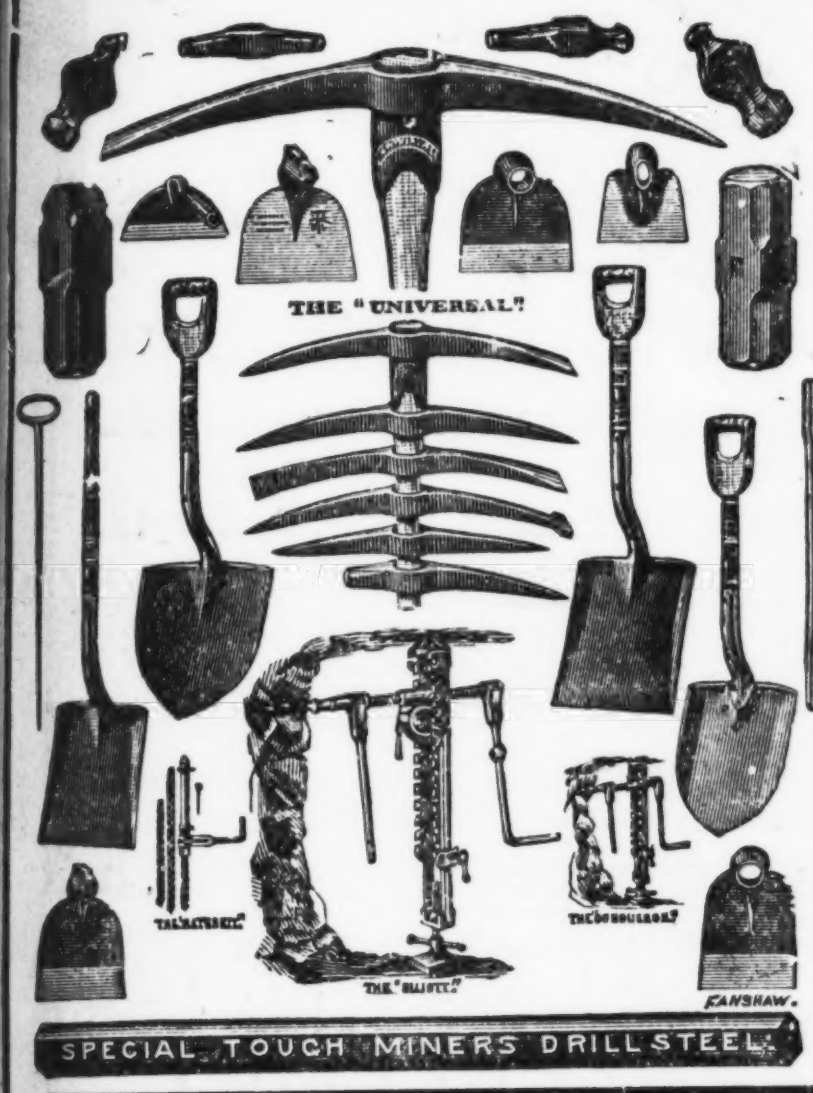

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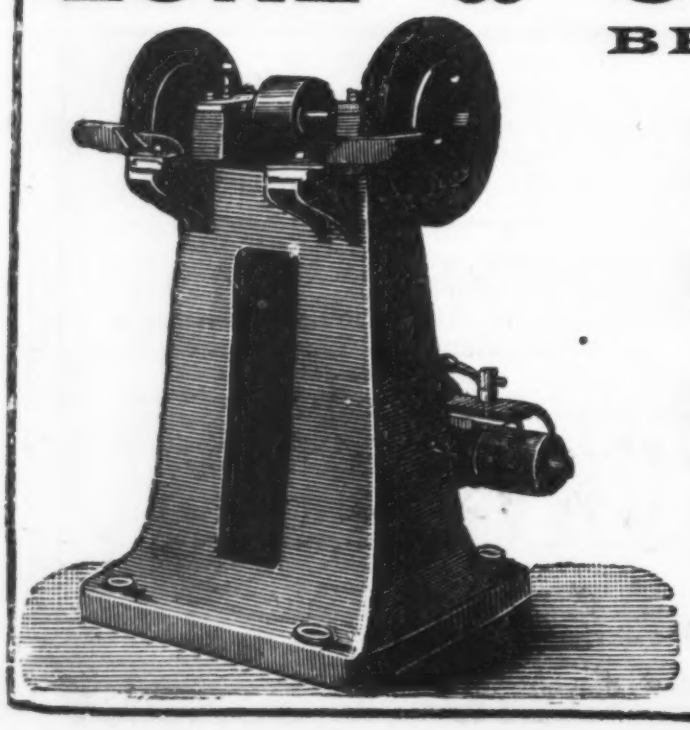

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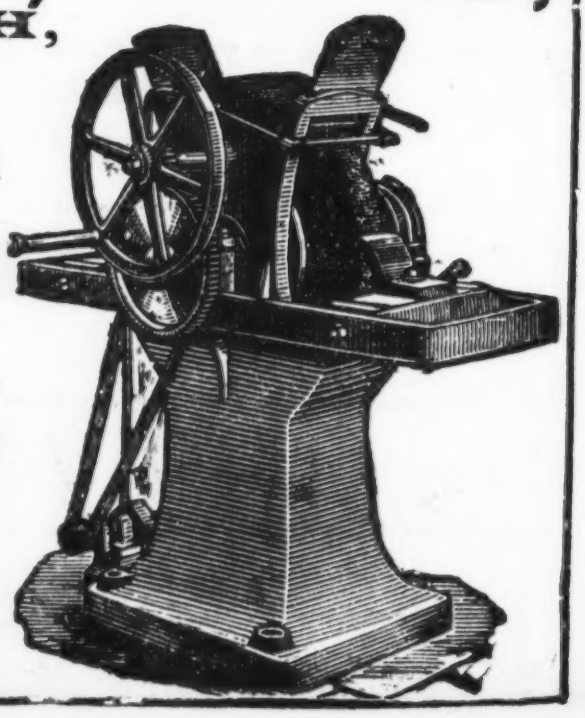

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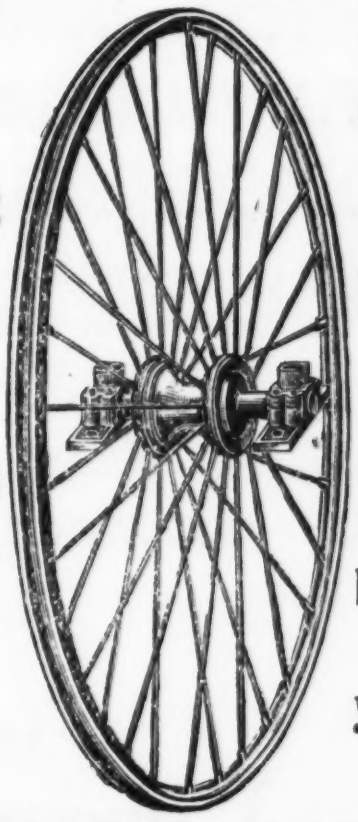

Thousands of our Pulleys at work in all parts of the World, giving Universal satisfaction. Many of these Pulleys have been regularly working 20 years without renewal.

Established 1863.
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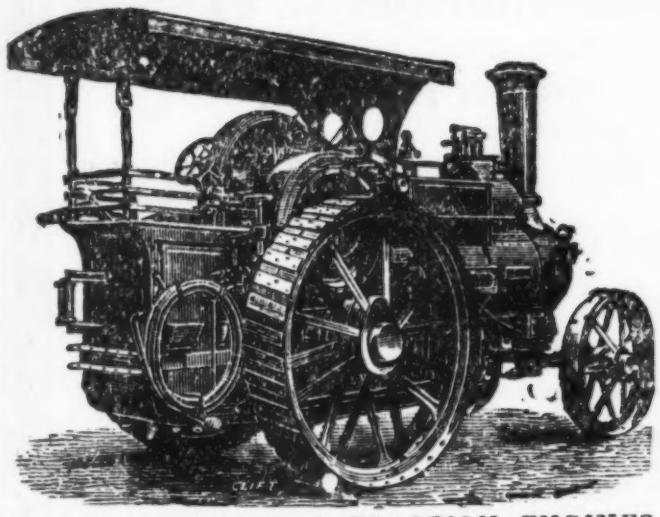

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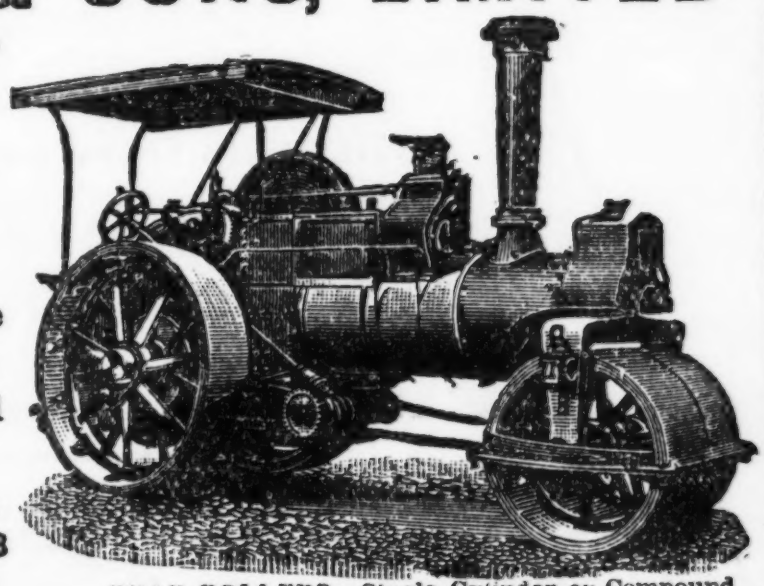

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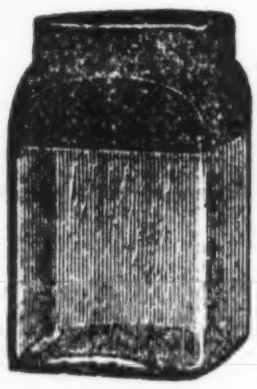

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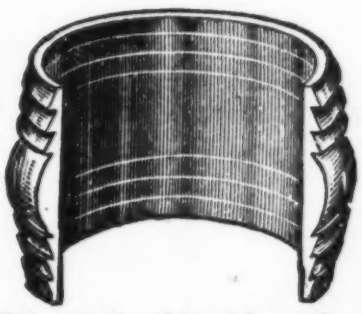
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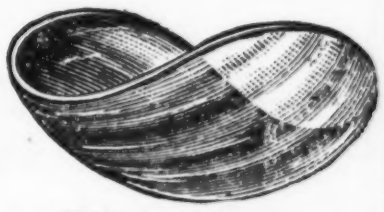
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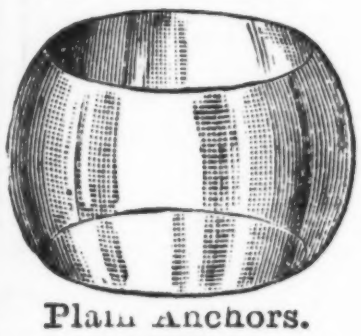
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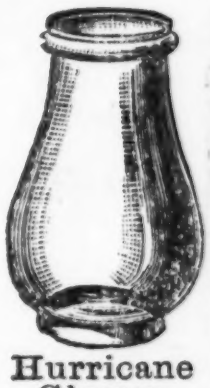
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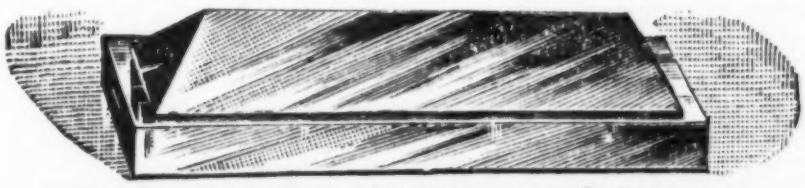

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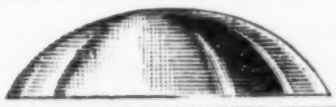
RAILWAY  **LENSES.**

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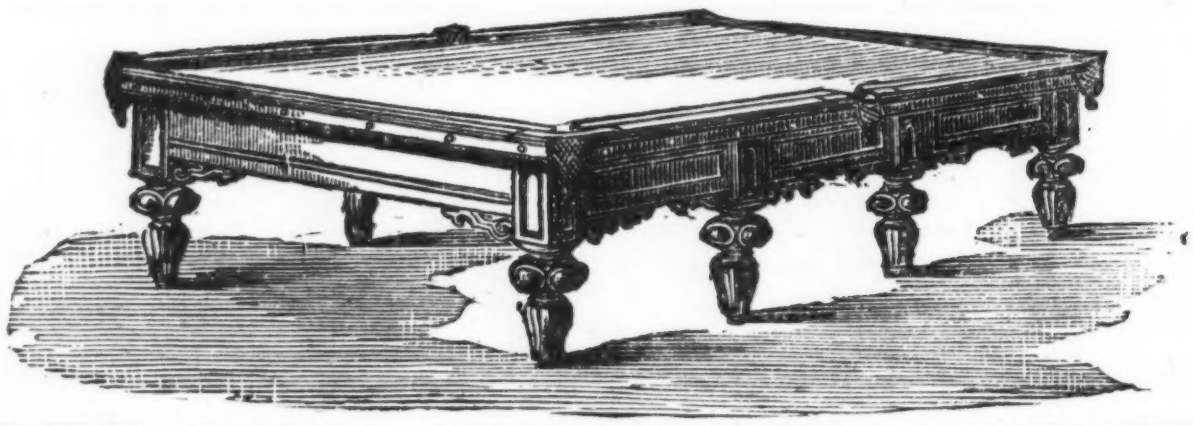

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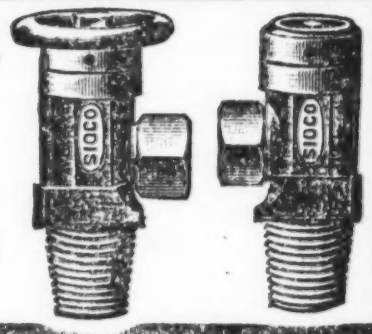

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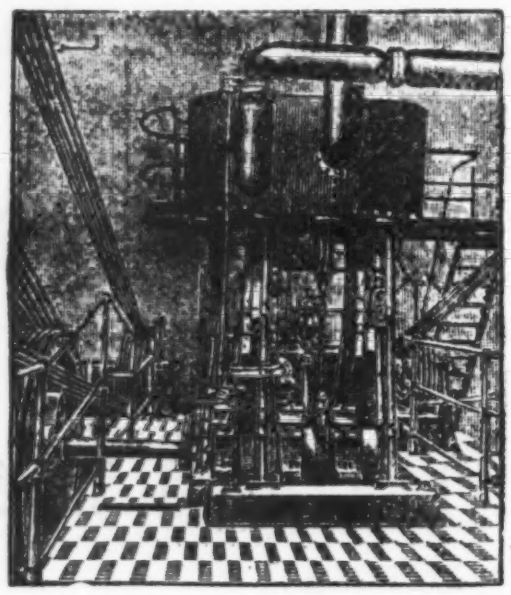

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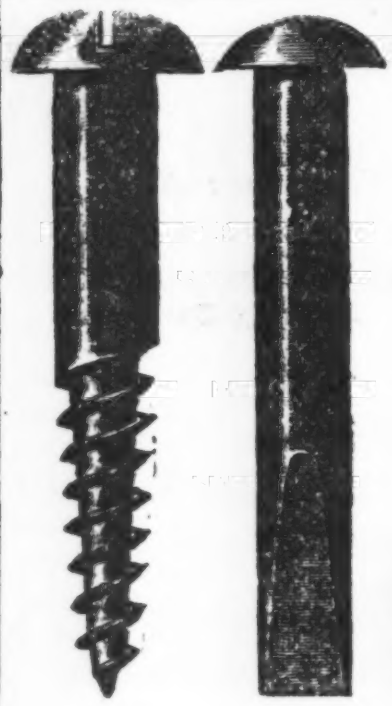

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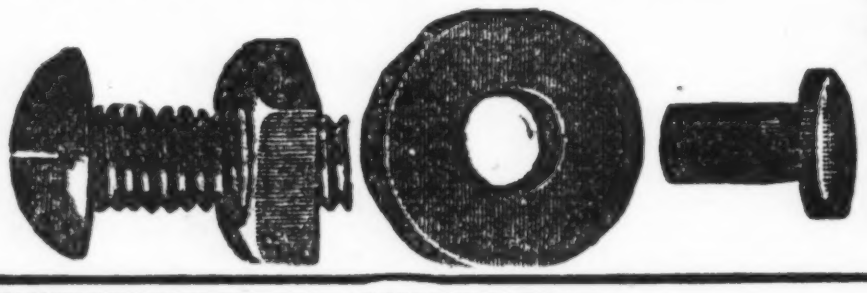

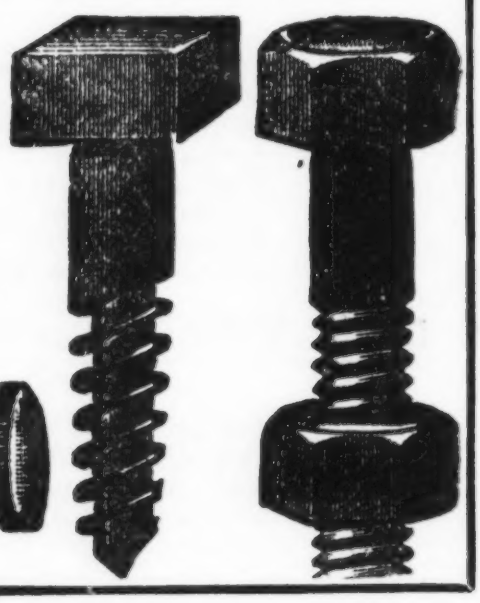

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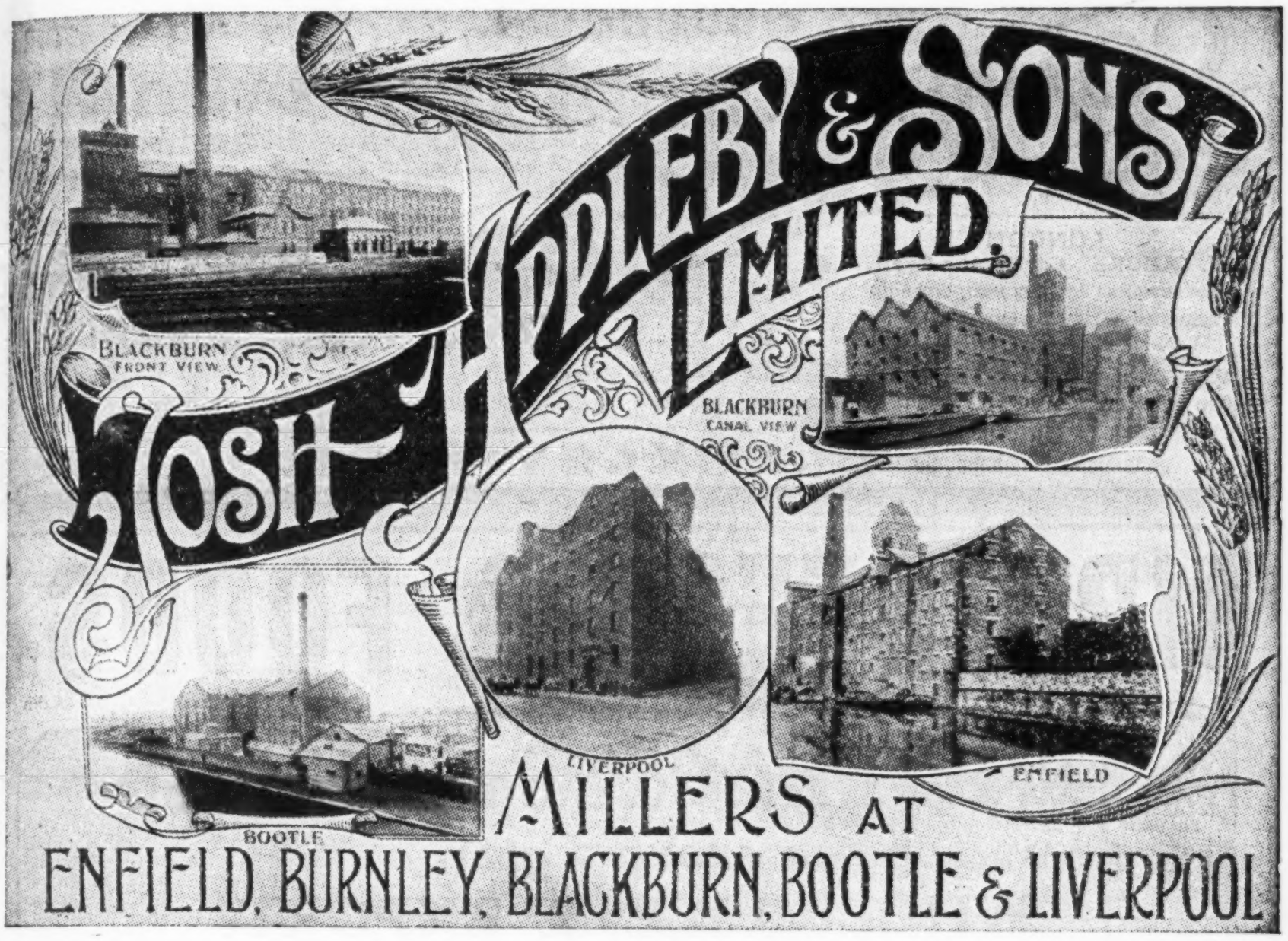

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Harmless Vegetable Colours for Confectionery.
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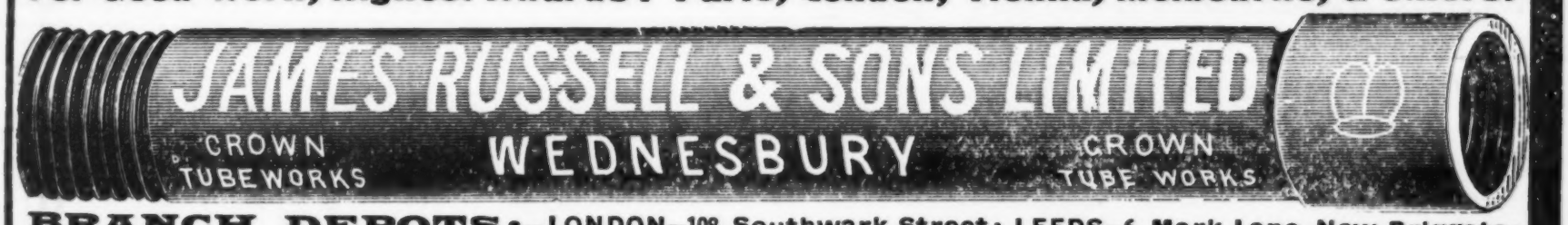

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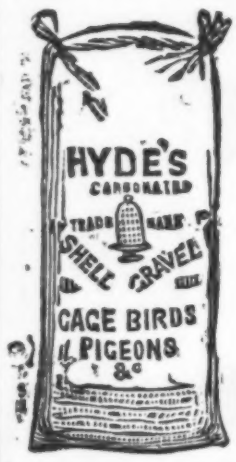

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FIRE BRICKS & CLAY.
Best Quality.

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CIRCULAR POINTED
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Write as smoothly as a lead pencil, and neither scratch nor spurt, the points being rounded by a new process.

C. B. & CO., Ltd., also manufacture every other kind of Steel Pens for Export. Their NEW GRADUATED SERIES offers the novel advantage of each Pattern being made in four different flexibilities.

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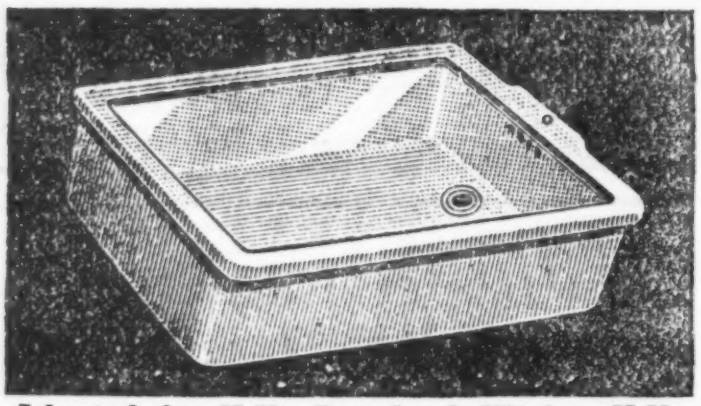

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AND STRAW
HATS.

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Hats & Caps.

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SNOWFLAKE, CHOICE, FINES.

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THE MOST SUCCESSFUL

Prize-Winning Flour in the World.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP 1901, 1902, 1903,

AND

OVER FIFTY GOLD MEDALS.

W. VERNON & SONS,

MILLERS,

LIVERPOOL.

CONTRACTS.

SOFIA.—August 3rd.—Tramway.—A dispatch has been received at the Foreign Office from his Majesty's agent and Consul-General at Sofia, forwarding translation of a notice issued by the Municipality of Philippopolis, inviting tenders for the electric lighting of the town and for the construction of an electric tramway from Philippopolis to Stanimaka. A copy may be seen on application at the offices of the Commercial Intelligence Branch, Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall-street, London, E.C.

EXETER, July 1st.—Plant.—For the supply and erection in their power station of plant, for the Corporation, as follows, viz.:—Contract (A) one 200-kw. triple-expansion engine and traction generator, with condenser, steam, exhaust, circulating water pipes, &c., or, alternatively, one 200-kw. steam turbo-generator, with condenser, pipes, &c.; (B) one 200-kw. two-phase to direct-current motor generator for traction purposes, with switchboards, cables, &c. Forms can be obtained from Mr. H. D. Munro, city electrical engineer, on payment of a deposit of £2 2s.

LONDON.—July 7th.—For supply of hard steam coal, best house coal and small coal, delivered as required to the public baths and other establishments of the Council, for twelve months, for the Poplar Baths and Washhouses Committee. Forms may be obtained on application at Poplar Town Hall, Newby-place.

MALTON (YORKS).—July 2nd.—For the supply of about 4,500 tons of double-screened gas nuts to be delivered at Malton station in twelve months ending June 30, 1905, for the Malton Gas Company. Particulars may be obtained of Mr. Henry Tobey, engineer, Malton.

To Colliery Proprietors and others.

The Corporation of Birkenhead are prepared to receive Tenders for the supply of North Wales, Lancashire, or other good Steam Coal for a period of twelve months, commencing on the 17th August, 1904, the coal to be delivered in quantities of about 250 tons per week, as hereunder mentioned, and as may be required for Corporation Ferries Steamers.

Tenders to state (*a*) the price per ton delivered free in railway waggons at the Abbey-street or Blackpool-street Coal Sidings, Birkenhead; or in the alternative (*b*) the price per ton delivered free in bags, by carts to be provided by the Contractors, on the Landing Stage or into the Coal Yard at Woodside; or (*c*) the price per ton delivered free on the Landing Stage at Woodside from the Contractors' lighters or flats.

The price quoted in the tenders is to include the cost of all weighing (if any) required under the Weights and Measures Act, 1889.

Further particulars and forms of tender may be obtained on application to the Manager at the Woodside Ferry, Birkenhead.

The person whose tender may be accepted will be required to enter into a contract containing a clause as to the payment of the rate of wages, and the observance of the hours of labour recognised and agreed upon between the trade unions and the employers in the locality in which the work for carrying out the contract is to be performed.

Tenders (on tender forms) sealed and endorsed "Tender for Ferry Coal," to be sent in to me not later than 5 o'clock in the afternoon of Tuesday, 12th July, 1904.

The Corporation do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.

Town Hall. By order,
Birkenhead, ALFRED GILL,
16th June, 1904. Town Clerk.

CONTRACTS.

LONDON.—July 12th.—Cranes, &c.—For the supply, delivery, and erection of three 3-ton electric travelling jib cranes and two electric locomotives upon the wharf of the electricity generating station now being erected by the Council at Greenwich, for the London County Council. Forms may be obtained at the County Hall, Spring Gardens, S.W., upon payment of the sum of £2 deposit.

PENRITH.—July 5th.—Plant.—For the supply and erection of the following plant, for the Urban District Council:—Section (A) two oil or gas engines and dynamos, (B) switchboard and boosters, (C) storage battery, (D) mains. Forms can be obtained from George Wainwright, Clerk, Public Offices, Penrith, on payment of £2 2s. deposit.

ROCHDALE.—July 1st.—Dynamo.—For the supply, delivery, and erection at the electricity works, Rochdale, Lancashire, of one 413 kw. steam dynamo, for the Corporation. Forms may be obtained from Messrs. Lacey, Sillar, and Leigh, 3, Queen Anne's Gate, Westminster, S.W.

OLDHAM.—July 6th.—Plant.—For complete installations of coal-breaking and elevating plant, inclined retorts, horizontal retorts, stoking machinery (compressed air), stoking machinery (projector type), for the Oldham Corporation Gasworks Committee. Forms may be obtained from the General Manager, Mr. Arthur Andrew, on payment of £1 1s. deposit.

DOWNPATRICK, July 2nd.—For supply of 160 tons of coal to the Down County Infirmary. Tenders to be addressed to the Chairman of the Committee of Management, Board-room, Infirmary.

DERBY, July 13th.—Machinery.—For the making, erecting, setting to work, and maintaining in good order for twelve months, on the site of the intended pumping station near the Spondon station of the Midland Railway Company, in the county of Derby, of various pumping machinery, for the Derby Corporation. Forms, &c., may be obtained at the office of Messrs. James Mansergh and Sons, 5, Victoria-street, Westminster, on deposit of £10.

ILKESTON, July 5th.—For 10,000 tons of gas coal, nuts, cannel, to be delivered as required at the gasworks siding, Midland Railway, for the Gas Committee. Forms may be had on application at the Gas Office.

Borough of Southwark.

Tenders for Coal.

The Council of the Metropolitan Borough of Southwark are prepared to receive Tenders for the supply of 4,000 tons of Coal, as specified in the form of tender, a copy of which may be had on application to the undersigned.

The coal to be delivered in trucks as ordered by the Electrical Engineer at the rate of about 60 tons per week, at the Council's Siding (South Eastern and Chatham Railway) which adjoins their Electric Light Station, Penrose Street Walworth Road, S.E.

Tenders duly signed must be sent in under cover endorsed "Tender for Coal," and addressed to the Town Clerk, not later than noon on Wednesday, the 6th July next.

The Council do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.

J. A. JOHNSON,
Town Clerk.

Town Hall,
Walworth-road, S.E.

CONTRACTS.

BELFAST.—July 11th.—Electric Cranes.—For supply, erection, and setting to work on the Queen's Quay, Belfast, of two portable electric gantry cranes, each suitable for a working load of four tons at a radius of 50 ft., for the Belfast Harbour Commissioners. Forms may be obtained on application to the Harbour Office.

IPSWICH, July 7th.—For the supply of about 800 tons of the best quality Nixon Navigation unscreened Welsh or other best hard steam coal, for the Waterworks Committee. Forms may be obtained on application to Mr. Hamlet Roberts, Engineer and Manager.

ASHFORD (KENT), July 6th.—For 150 tons of good hard household coal (about 20 tons per month), for the Guardians of West Ashford Union. Tenders to be addressed to Chairman at the Workhouse, Westwell.

BATLEY, July 2nd.—For the supply and delivery at their electricity works, New Ing Fields, Batley, of 1,000 tons each of nuts and slack coal, for the Batley Corporation. Forms may be obtained on application to Mr. S. Derwen Jones, Resident Engineer.

FARNHAM.—July 6th.—For supply of 400 tons (10 per cent. more or less at the option of the Water Company) of the best selected hand-picked large, hard Creswell steam coal, to be delivered into the Company's stores as required, for the Farnham Water Company, Limited, Farnham, Surrey. Forms may be obtained of Mr. W. Wells, Secretary.

EXMOUTH.—July 2nd.—For supply of 4,500 to 5,000 tons of best gas coal, to be delivered as required from August 1st, 1904, to July 31st, 1905, for the Exmouth Gas Company. Tenders to be sent to J. Palmer, Esq., Manager, Gasworks, Exmouth.

NEWPORT.—July 4th.—For the supply of about 32,000 tons of best gas coal for the period of one year from August 1st next, for the Newport (Mon.) Gas Company. Further particulars may be had of the Company's Engineer.

CASHEL (IRELAND), July 4th.—For supply of about 200 tons of best gas coal to be delivered on railway waggons at Cork not later than October 1st, for the Cashel Urban Council. Tenders to be sent to Mr. T. Moloney, Acting-Clerk, board-room, Cashel.

Metropolitan Borough of Stepney.

Electric Lighting.

To Coal Merchants and Others.

Notice is hereby given that the Metropolitan Borough of Stepney will receive Tenders from such persons as may be willing to enter into a Contract for the supply between the 1st August, 1904, and the 31st July, 1905, of about 4,000 tons of Welsh Anthracite Coal, and of hard Bituminous Steam Coal (large and small), delivered in such quantities as may be ordered from time to time during the period above named.

Forms of tender and conditions of contract may be obtained on application at the address given below.

Sealed tenders addressed to the Chairman of the Electricity Committee, and endorsed "Tender for Steam Coal," must be left at 27, Osborn-street, E., before noon on Monday, 4th July, 1904.

The Council do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.

WM. C. P. TAPPER,
Engineer and Manager.

27, Osborn-street, E.

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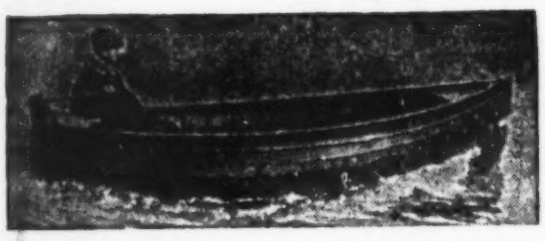

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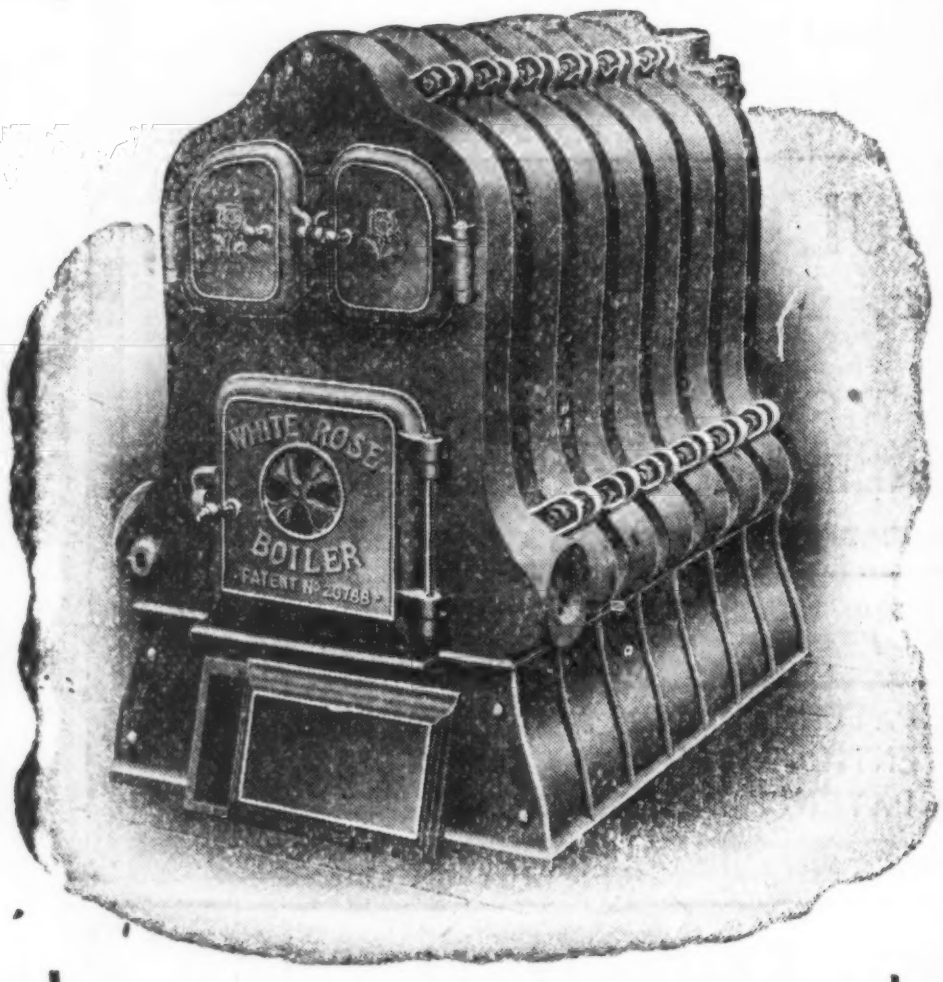

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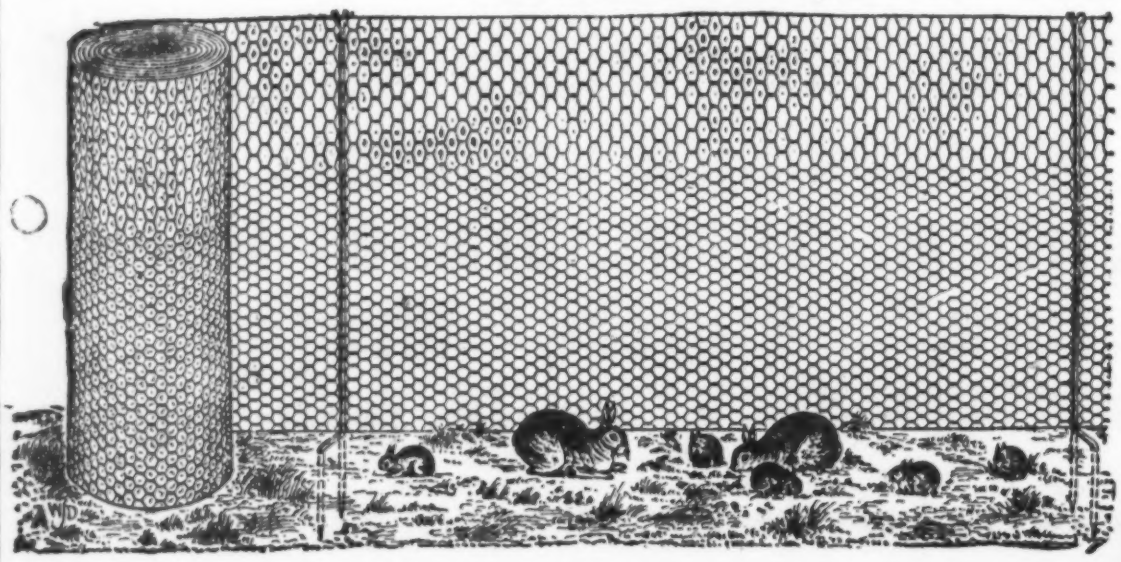

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Board of Trade Journal.

JUNE 30TH, 1904.

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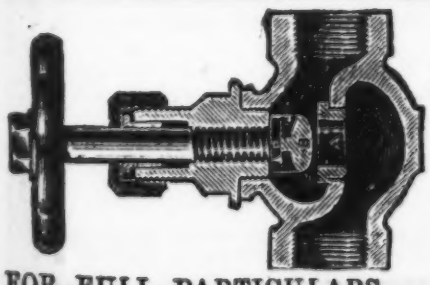

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AREA, etc.—The present BUTE DOCKS are 111 acres in extent, and vessels loading up to 12,000 tons regularly trade there.

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MACHINERY AND APPLIANCES.—The Bute Docks are equipped with the most IMPROVED Appliances for the discharging and loading of vessels with dispatch; the greater portion being worked by HYDRAULIC PRESSURE. There is an ample equipment of Cranes of various power up to 70 TONS, as well as Grain Elevators, &c., &c.

Special attention may be drawn to the NEW 70-TON CRANE in the ROATH DOCK, thus enabling THE CARDIFF RAILWAY COMPANY to ship or unship THE HEAVIEST WEIGHTS.

COAL SHIPPING FACILITIES.—Coal is being shipped at these Docks by the ordinary Fixed, as well as Moveable Staiths; as also by the LEWIS-HUNTER PATENT COALING CRANES. The Cardiff Railway Company have the EXCLUSIVE use in the Bristol Channel of the LEWIS HUNTER Coaling Cranes, which have proved by far the most satisfactory appliances for shipping Welsh Coal, with dispatch and the Least Possible Breakage. Colliery screened coal shipped by these cranes being equal to double screened coal shipped by ordinary Staiths, and thereby ensuring to the purchaser an INCREASED VALUE OF AT LEAST ONE SHILLING per ton over that of coal put on board by shipping appliances at other Docks, besides ensuring great SAVING IN BREAKAGE and uniformity of distribution throughout the cargo of any small coal that might exist; thus minimising any risk of spontaneous ignition from small coal in cargoes bound for distant ports. THREE OR MORE CRANES can be worked simultaneously into one vessel, and as much as 330 TONS have been shipped by one crane in an hour, and 4,773 TONS have been shipped into a vessel in 10 HOURS. Shippers attach so much importance to the advantages of these Cranes that they frequently elect to wait some time for a CRANE BERTH rather than have their coal shipped by the usual staiths.

The NEW SOUTH DOCK will be entirely equipped with these COALING CRANES, in deference to the wishes of so many shippers and buyers of CARDIFF COAL.

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RAILWAY ACCOMMODATION.—CARDIFF is the NATURAL PORT for BIRMINGHAM and the MIDLAND DISTRICT, as the London & North Western, Midland, and Great Western Railway Companies have direct communication from the Ship's Side.

DOCK CHARGES.—These are much below the average of our Great Ports. Vessels can generally procure an outward cargo to any PORT in the WORLD, thus giving the Bute Docks an advantage for Imports, as vessels do not require to change Ports.

TRADE.—The BUTE DOCKS were opened in the year 1839, and the IMPORTS and EXPORTS in 1902 were as follows:—Imports, 2,117,510 TONS; Exports, 7,684,087 TONS; Total, 9,801,597 TONS.

CATTLE IMPORTATION.—The BUTE DOCKS are the ONLY DOCKS in South Wales which have permission from the BOARD OF TRADE to land FOREIGN CATTLE. Excellent CATTLE LAIRS, SLAUGHTER HOUSES, and CHILL ROOMS are erected adjacent to the Wharf in the deepest-water dock, with Railways leading into them, having communication with all PARTS.

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STATUS OF CARDIFF.—CARDIFF now occupies the position of being the FIRST PORT in the UNITED KINGDOM for shipping cleared to FOREIGN COUNTRIES and BRITISH POSSESSIONS and the PREMIER PORT in the WORLD for the SHIPMENT OF COAL.

NOTE.—The Bute Docks are the only Docks situated in the Town of Cardiff. Vessels using the Bute Docks thereby save their owners and Captains from loss of time in making journeys between the Vessels and the Merchants' and Brokers' Offices, Banks, Custom House, Post Office, &c., all of which Offices are adjacent to the Bute Docks.

The fullest information on all matters will be readily granted on application to the

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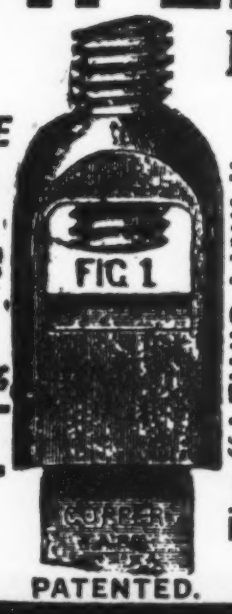

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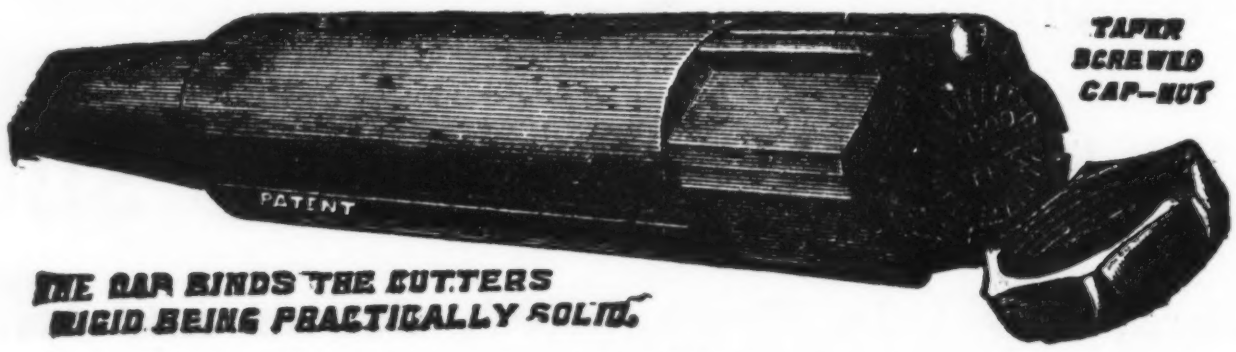

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ADVERTISERS' NOTICES.

The following Admiralty Charts have recently been newly issued, or so largely corrected as to render a new Chart desirable. The date of the alteration is notified in the centre of the bottom of the Chart.

NOTE.—Charts that have received such alterations as can usually be made by hand on the Charts in use, in agreement with the "Notices to Mariners," are not described in the List below. The date of such alteration is shown at the left hand lower corner of the Chart.

Chart No.	Title of Chart.	Nature and Subject of Correction.
3384	Ireland, S. : Queenstown	New Chart. May
2312	Norway, Sheet X. : Lofoten isls. to Andö ...	Large Corrections. April
1298	Norway, W. : approaches to Molde	Large Corrections. May
2339	General chart of the North sea	New Chart. April
3416	France, W. : approach to Brest	New Chart. May
3158	Norway, S. : Nevlunghavn to Torbiörnskier, including the entrance and wrn. approaches to Christiania fiord	Large Corrections. May
3159	Norway, S. : Christiania fiord, srn. portion, Torbiörnskier to Jælöen	Large Corrections. May
1974	Norway, S. : Christiania fiord, nrn. portion, Jælöen to Christiania, and including Drams fiord	General Amendments. April
3160	Norway, S. : Torbiörnskier to Rauö, including Single and Ide fiords	General Amendments. May
2247	Gulf of Finland : N. shore, Hogland to Seskar ..	Large Corrections. April
173	Gulf of Finland : approaches to Helsingfors and Sveaborg	Large Corrections. April
3415	Gulf of Bothnia: approaches to Räfsö and Biörneborg	New Chart. May
2733	Iceland, S.W. : Portland to Snefells Jokel, including Faxe Bugt	General Amendments. April
2980	Iceland, S. ; Storksnæs to Portland	General Amendments. April
2113	Sicily, W. : plans of anchorages	Plan Sciacca added. May
3428	Grecian archipelago : anchorages, Port Kondia	New Chart. April
2812	Africa, W. : Bight of Benin, Lagos harbour ...	Large Corrections. April
1003	Africa, E. : Pungue river, Beira harbour ...	Large Corrections. April
2772	Eastern archipelago : anchorages in Gillolo (Halmaheira)	Plans, Jailollo Road, Ternate Road and Channel, Ternate Road added. April
3349	China sea : approach to Kwang Chau Wan ...	Large Corrections. May
3386	China, S.E. : Mirs bay, Long harbour and approaches	Large Corrections. May

ADVERTISERS' NOTICES—*continued.*

Chart No.	Title of Chart.	Nature and Subject of Correction.
1641	China sea : Formosa, harbours and anchorages	Plan Taihanroku anchorage added. May
2577	Philippine isls. : between St. Bernardino and Mindoro straits, with adjacent isls.	Large Corrections throughout. April
2578	Philippine isls. : ern. part of the Sulu or Mindoro sea	General Amendments. April
3426	Philippine isls. : Mindanao isl., N., plans port Misamis, port Langaran	New Chart. May
2575	Philippine isls. : ern. part of the Celebes sea ...	Large Corrections. April
2411	New Zealand : South isl., Otago harbour from the entrance to Dunedin	Large Corrections. May
329	S. Pacific : Solomon isls., Bougainville strait ...	Plan Shortland harbour added. April
1570	S. Pacific : New Hebrides isls., Malo isl. to Efate isl.	Malekula isl., W. April
731	Pacific : Gilbert isls. (Kingsmill group) ...	Nonuti (Sydenham isl.). April
1141	N. Pacific : isls.	Large Corrections. April
3008	N. America, W. : S.E. Alaska, anchorages ...	Plan Killisnoo added. April
2491	N. America, E. : approaches to New York ...	Large Amendments throughout. April
3335	Newfoundland, N.E. : approach to strait of Belle Isle	Plan outer soundings off Belle Isle added April
2030	Ireland, S.W. : Valentia harbour	Large Corrections and General Amendments. May
1297	Norway, W. : Lepsö to Ona, including the outer approaches to Molde	Large Corrections. May
2331	Gulf of Finland : Hangö head to Barö sound ...	Large Corrections. May
740	Iceland and the Færoe isls.	General Amendments. May
40	India, W. : Karáchi harbour (Kurrachee) ...	Large Corrections. May
934	Ern. archip. : Surabaya, Bali and Sapudi straits, with anchorages in Bali and Kangeang isls.	Surabaya Strait. May
166	China, E. : river Min, Pagoda anchorage and approaches	Large Corrections. May
1280	Korea : Korean archip., Nan How group, Port Hamilton	Plan V to Anchorage (Beaufort Anchorage), Quelpart isl. added. May
372	Japan : Kiusiu, S., gulf of Kagosima, upper part	Kagosima to Sakura sima, and plan Yamagawa harbour. May
2600	West Indies : St. Domingo to Dominica ...	Puerto Rico, Mona and Crab isls. May
2488	N. America, E. : Portland harbour	Large Corrections. May
2538	Nova Scotia : Bay of Fundy, E., Yarmouth to Petit passage	Compasses. May
3405	Newfoundland, E. : Bay of Exploits, Peter arm	New Chart. May
3390	Canada : Lake Huron, St. Clair river to Goderich	New Chart. May

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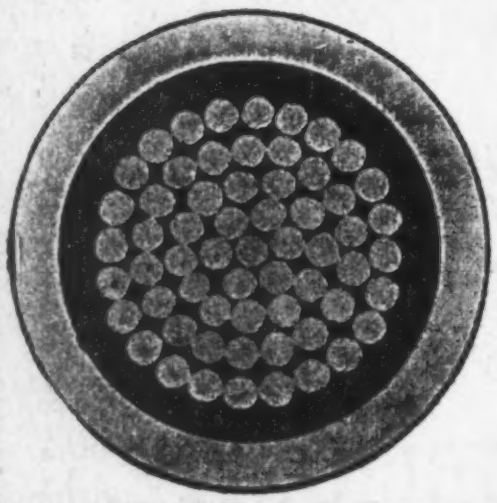

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